

the chronicle

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GENERATIONS**
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JB's fixtures and fittings to be auctioned



Former owner Sam Jukes and joint founder Sid Weston by the mixing desk and lighting desk being sold

Landmark former rock club JB's will be stripped of its memorabilia and auctioned off as administrators admit defeat in the battle to sell it on.

The live music venue and nightclub in Castle Hill, Dudley, will go under the hammer as an empty building in September as buyers willing to take it on have failed to materialise.

And as of next week, Birmingham-based auctioneers MGR Appraisals Ltd will start selling off music equipment and items that have adorned the walls of the club over the decades as it hosted legends of the music industry including Led Zeppelin, U2, Manic Street Preachers and Blur.

The club went into administration in September and closed in January with debts of £450,000.

A potential buyer pulled out at the 11th hour at the end of last year.

Administrator John Travers said even knocking £25,000 off the original asking price

of £350,000 had not helped to bring another buyer forward. "Following extensive marketing efforts that have produced a great deal of interest, acceptable offers have not been received since the one which failed to proceed at the beginning of this year," he said.

"It is very sad but unfortunately there is not much left for us to do."

The property – minus extras – will be auctioned off by Bigwood Auctioneers in Birmingham city centre on September 22.

Mr Travers said he did not expect anyone to take it on as a music venue.

"It is now extremely unlikely that the premises will be sold as a venue on the same lines that JB's operated, and I therefore decided to arrange a separate sale of the equipment and memorabilia," Mr Travers added. "I would quite like to have all the equipment sold by the time the property is auctioned off."

Anyone interested in keeping a piece of JB's history can visit www.mgrappraisals.com.



Even the bar tills will be up for grabs at the JB's auction

Tributes for bike death crash boy, 16

Tributes have been paid to a 16-year-old Smethwick boy who died in hospital after being hit by a motorbike.

Rajinder Mahal, of Edgbaston Road, was crossing the road from Lordswood Boys' School & Sixth Form Centre towards The New Talbot pub on Hagley Road when he was hit by a Suzuki GSXR 1000cc motorbike at 9.50pm on Monday.

He had been in a group including 15-year-old best friend Jimmy Mallen, of Harborne Road, Bearwood, who crossed the road and turned to see Rajinder surrounded by a crowd of people after the crash.

Rajinder, known as Raj to friends, had suffered serious injuries and later died at Queen Elizabeth Hospital. A 39-year-old motorcyclist from Brierley Hill was uninjured in the crash but was treated for shock at the scene. Rajinder's family were too upset to talk about the tragedy but friends paid tribute to his "kind and generous personality".

Best friend Jimmy said: "I've known him my whole life but I got to know him best around New Year. We haven't spent a day apart since then, we had so much fun. He was the nicest person, he never got into any trouble and his personality was so funny and kind."

Joshua King, an 18-year-old Lordswood Boys pupil of Gillott Road, added: "He was a good person. He never got into any trouble and helped so many people. It's very sad. He would always smile and help people. There's some people at school who are indebted to him for keeping them on the straight and narrow." Flowers were left at the scene in tribute. Nearby residents meanwhile said the tragedy showed why safety measures were long overdue outside the school.

Niki Constantinou, a worker at Birmingham University who lives on Hagley Road, said: "This road is a terrible danger to all the children. It's so tragic and horrible for this to happen. There's nowhere for children to cross."

Witnesses can call 0345 113 5000.



Rajinder Mahal, 16

Former partner appears in court over stabbing

KERRY'S EX ACCUSED OF HERMURDER



Mother – Kerry Smith

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

The former partner of a young mother has appeared in court charged with her murder.

Mother-of-one Kerry Smith died from stab wounds after collapsing in Blackheath High Street. David Richard Palmer, aged 39, appeared before Sandwell Magistrates Court accused of killing the 29-year-old.

He spoke only to confirm his name and address during the brief hearing.

Palmer, of Mincing Lane, Rowley Regis, wore a black t-shirt, showing tattoos on his arms, and black trousers. He did not enter a plea and was remanded in custody to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Thursday.

His solicitor Mr Milo Turner said no application for bail would be made.

Members of Kerry Smith's family and friends packed the public gallery at the Warley court to see Palmer.

Miss Smith was stabbed in broad daylight near to the Malt Shovel pub in High

Street at 11.40am on Sunday. She died in hospital.

Police cordons which had been in place since the incident outside the Malt Shovel pub were lifted earlier this week, but a cordon remained outside Palmer's address in Mincing Lane.

Det Insp Stuart Kidd said: "This is a tragic case where a young mother has lost her life. We appeal for anyone who was in the High Street area on Sunday morning to come forward if they are able to assist our investigation."

Connection

"We would also like to reassure the local community that this is being treated as an isolated incident and we are not looking for anyone else in connection with this matter."

A number of floral tributes have now been left close to where Miss Smith died.

Meanwhile a tribute group on the social networking site Facebook has been flooded with messages and 'likes' by 3,800 people.

Anyone with information should ring 0345 113 5000 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

'Fiasco' of roadworks to end early

A £3.5 million roadworks scheme that led to job losses after cutting traders' takings by more than half will finish on Monday – three months earlier than planned, but has been called a fiasco.

The A4100 scheme in Cradley Heath started in October in a bid to tackle on-street parking and traffic congestion.

During 10 months of roadworks, owners put landmark rock 'n' roll venue The Regis Suite on the market for £900,000.

The move was taken after attendance at events and takings from the carvery dipped by more than half at the Reddal Hill Road venue.

But it has now emerged the road will reopen to two-way traffic within days, months ahead of the scheduled December finish date.

Traders have questioned whether the scheme was worthwhile and worried about its long-term impact on business.

Warren Rudge, owner of Ivans Fish & Chips in Reddal Hill Road, said: "The roadworks have been a fiasco. We lost about 30 per cent of our takings."

"It was an atrocious decision; the road's barely wider than when they started and the slowest part for traffic, Old Hill Cross, is just as slow as ever."

Sue Weston, of John Jones Footwear on Upper High Street, said owners had been forced to make one worker redundant in November after sales plummeted. Council contractors sped up the schedule of works because of traders' concerns.

Councillor Derek Rowley, borough neighbourhood services chief, said: "This was a massive scheme on an extremely busy route. Obviously it meant disruption to people and shopkeepers, but I am sure they are delighted with the end result."

The scheme saw roads widened and new kerbs built, as well as parking bays for shoppers.

Six quizzed on boat theft

Six youths have been arrested over the theft of a boat from Wordsley. The 18ft blue and white cabin boat was taken from its mooring at The Poplars on July 3 – it was later found burned out on Smallshire Way. Six youths, aged from 15 to 19, were arrested during the week of July 11. They were all questioned on suspicion of theft and later bailed.

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Tesco to create 80 jobs on £27m site

Eighty new jobs will be created when a £27 million Tesco superstore is completed this year.

Work on the store at Burnt Tree Island on the Dudley-Sandwell border.

Bosses say there would be more than 80 fresh vacancies at the store, expected to be open before Christmas.

It is likely to bring the grand total of workers at the supermarket to 380.

When the store shut in January, 120 staff remained on site at a temporary branch and 180 were sent to work at supermarkets across the West Midlands.

Talks are taking place with staff to ensure they want to return by December.

But some workers fear they will be asked to take a reduction in hours, up to two hours a week, to accommodate the new positions and changes to how the store operates.

Bosses refused to rule out reductions in some cases but said this would be "rare" with the aim to match workers to their original roles.

A spokesman for the workers, who did not wish to be named, said: "There are worries staff returning to Burnt Tree" will have reduced hours."

On your bikes

Travel charity Sustrans has launched a campaign to get youngsters to enjoy the outdoors this summer. It is encouraging families to try cycling routes in Birmingham and Wolverhampton. Maps available at www.sustrans.org.uk

Building bosses facing charges over £6m fraud

Dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

charges of conspiracy to cheat HM Revenue and Customs and conspiracy to launder money.

Steven Barrett, 31, of Woodside Way, Walsall, on charges of conspiracy to cheat HM Revenue and Customs and conspiracy to launder money, under the proceeds of crime act 2000.

Steven Bache, 49, of Cornerstone, Leys Close, Stourbridge, on charges of conspiracy to cheat HM Revenue and Customs and conspiracy to launder money.

Anthony Smith, 33, of Mill Street, Brierley Hill, on charges of conspiracy to cheat HM Revenue and Customs and conspiracy to launder money.

Kelly Nicholls, 33, also of Mill Street, on charges of conspiracy to cheat HM Revenue and Customs and conspiracy to launder money.

Ian Siviter, 35, of Regent Road, Tividale, on charges of conspiracy to cheat HM Revenue and Customs and conspiracy to launder money.

Susan Coussens, 52, of Chestnut Close, Norton, Stourbridge, on charges of conspiracy to cheat HM Revenue and Customs and conspiracy to launder money.

Richard Ruddick, 42, of no fixed address, on charges of conspiracy to contravene the finance act 2000 and conspiracy to contravene the VAT act 1994.

Gary Lowndes, 50, and **Helga Lowndes**, 45, both of Weeping Cross, Stafford, on charges of conspiracy to contravene the finance act 2000 and conspiracy to contravene the VAT act 1994.

Simon Davies, 43, of Loxley Close, Churchill, Redditch, on charges of conspiracy to cheat HM Revenue and Customs and conspiracy to launder money.

Neil Hughes, 45, of Blackwell, Bromsgrove, on charges of conspiracy to cheat HM Revenue and Customs and conspiracy to launder money.

John Caulfield, 39, of Barton Lodge Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, on charges of conspiracy to cheat HM Revenue and Customs and conspiracy to launder money.

John Beatty, 43, of Crookes, Sheffield on conspiracy to contravene the finance act 2000 and conspiracy to contravene the VAT act 1994

It's a super Cooper send-off



Deputy head John Cooper with staff and pupils at Jesson's Primary School, Dudley

A deputy headteacher has said goodbye to staff and pupils at the Black Country school where he has taught for more than two decades.

John Cooper has spent 22 years at Jesson's Primary School, School Street, Dudley, but his name will live on after students named an outdoor classroom after him.

The 59-year-old, who is taking early retirement, began his 38-year teaching career at Wren's Nest Primary School, Dudley. He moved to Jesson's Primary as

a teacher before becoming deputy headteacher 16 years ago.

The father-of-two, from Kingswinford, said he was sad to be leaving the school where he had made many friends. He said he was also flattered after the new outdoor classroom was named The Coop Deck.

"There is a plaque with my name on. It is a nice thing to have," he said.

Mr Cooper said he was looking forward to taking a break and had rented a holiday cottage in Cornwall.

Views on stations merger wanted

A consultation into plans to merge Halesowen and Cradley Heath fire stations will be launched next month. The merger proposals have been revived by West Midlands Fire Service.

The station would be served by one 24-hour fire crew as opposed to the two crews currently based at the stations.

The plans were discussed two years ago but put on hold amid concerns from the public. But the service has now revived and revised them amid uncertainty over government funding cuts.

Residents and businesses are now being asked for their views on the proposals, with a public consultation set to run between August 15 and September 16.

When the plans were first mooted it was suggested that two fire engines would be based at the single station. However, service bosses said that after checking call out data they think the risk level posed has changed in both areas.

More details on the fire station consultation will soon be released – and the move will include public meetings. People will be asked for their views on plans to have only one fire engine and what they think about fire prevention activities.

Ballroom time

Ballroom and sequence dancing with music from Harley Street at Station Hotel, Castle Hill, Dudley will take place on the last Wednesday of every month from 8pm until 11pm.

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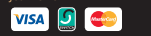


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Pair made fortune selling fake DVDs

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A couple have admitted making thousands of fake DVDs worth tens of thousands of pounds in their family home.

Simon Evans, aged 43, of Borough Crescent, Oldbury, pleaded guilty to 32 charges of counterfeiting DVDs and CDs and one of transferring criminal funds.

His wife Trudy, aged 48, of the same address, pleaded guilty to five charges of money laundering when they appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court earlier this week. The couple's home was raided by police on November 27, 2008.

The raid was a joint operation between the Federation Against Copyright Theft, Sandwell Trading Standards and West Midlands Police.

In the house they found thousands of fake DVDs and music CDs, which included Hollywood films, TV box sets and pornography. They also found copying equipment.

Trading standards officials described the Evans' business as a "sophisticated operation" whereby each customer had a password to enter their websites.

The entire operation was internet based and customers would pay using the businesses Paypal account. Trading Standards said the business had been running since February 2003 and the couple had made tens of thousands of pounds.

Between April 2005 and June 2007 £49,200 was transferred from the PayPal account into their own bank account and between June 2007 and December 2008 £39,482 was transferred.

The couple's daughter Abigail Nemedi, aged 24, of Edison Way, Nottingham, had faced three charges of money laundering but no evidence was offered and she was found not guilty.

Mr Mark Jackson prosecuting on behalf of Sandwell Council said they would be making a proceeds of crime application. The couple will be sentenced on August 30.

King meets King of Kings



Kathleen Hamilton, aged nine, and brother Curtland, 12, get ready for the concert with Nilaish Sharma, Neville Hamilton, Arpan Sharma and Robert Jones

The King of rock 'n' roll will meet the King of Kings in a gospel performance at a Black Country church later this month.

Organiser and performer Robert Jones will play songs by Elvis Presley, The Beatles, and Stevie Wonder - with his band at Lawrence Lane Methodist Church, Cradley Heath.

The free concert is on August 20. Mr Jones, aged 61, of Binswood Road, Halesowen, said: "I was listening to Elvis one day and there was a lyric in

one of his songs which said "now or never", and it reminded me of a Bible verse.

"We wanted to find a way of bringing the gospel to people in a new way, and combining it with popular music seemed like a great idea."

"Every song will just be accompanied by two verses from the Bible and that's it."

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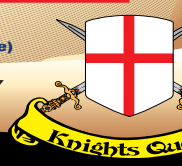
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Shout about bid to be city, says leader

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Dudley Council leader Les Jones has defended the borough's bid to become a city during a live question and answer session, saying it should be shouting "from the roof tops" about what it could offer investors and visitors.

He was put in the spotlight on the council's Facebook page where people were able to ask questions about the authority's ambition to be granted city status. Both the council and the bid came under fire from residents who said they did not believe it would be successful.

But Councillor Jones said it "was worth a shot" and could raise the borough's national profile.

Among those quizzing the leader was one resident who asked: "Why would we benefit from having city status? What would we have then, which we don't have now?"

Investing

Councillor Jones replied: "We have had visitors from China looking at investing in our area, but it is hard to explain what our area is when they ask where our city is. Is it Wolverhampton or Birmingham? I think it should be Dudley."

Defending the application, he also said: "Apart from a few hours of our officers' time we have spent nothing on this bid and neither has anyone else."

"We won't necessarily have another opportunity to do this for decades and actually the point of the bid is to raise our profile as a place to invest, live and work."

He was also asked what sort of things would improve if Dudley got city status.

"Well hopefully we will be able to follow through on all the great plans that we already have in place."

He also got quizzed on why Dudley does not have wheelie bins and whether a permanent home could be found in the borough for the Dudley Heathens speedway team. Speaking about wheelie bins, he said they could be "useful" in some areas but "a liability" in others. And he said there were many "planning and environmental obstacles" to setting up a new speedway stadium.

On your bike for fundraiser



Richard Hobbs and Jane Williams, who are taking part in a charity ride

A landscape gardener is taking on a fundraising cycle trek in memory of two friends who died of cancer.

Richard Hobbs, from Bridgnorth Road, Enville, is riding 900 miles from John O'Groats to Land's End over nine days. He is taking on the challenge in memory of his former school friends Christopher

Shillington, who died of stomach cancer at the age of 32, and 31-year-old Camilla Codrington, who suffered ovarian cancer. Mr Hobbs, 32, is raising cash for the Teenage Cancer Trust. He is joined by Jane Williams and Lorna Brooke, who are supporting the Injured Jockeys Fund, after one of their friends was hurt in a riding accident.

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Long wait for Icelandic returns

Taxpayers in Wyre Forest will have to wait for up to seven years to see the return of £6.5million invested by the council in failed Icelandic banks.

A further blow came as it emerged bond holders in the banks have issued a second challenge to the council's status as a "priority" for paybacks. Currently, the council expects to receive around 90p for every £1 invested in the banks. But if the appeal by bond holders succeeds, the authority risks getting back as little as 35p in the pound.

Wyre Forest District Council invested a total of £9million in the Icelandic banks, and since they col-

lapsed two-and-a-half years ago has reclaimed just over a third.

The new challenge, launched after a first appeal failed in April, could delay the repayment plan for several months.

Council spokeswoman Suzanne Johnston-Hubbard said the authority hoped to get a "significant" payout by the end of the year, with the rest being received in regular small payouts until the 2017/18 financial year.

She said the bond holders had been allocated 'non-priority' status and were appealing for the council to be dropped to the same status.

"We remain confident however, that we will be successful in the appeal and keep priority status," she added. Council bosses hope the money will help ease the pressure from the council, which has to save £4million over the next four years, including £1.2million over the next financial year.

They had earmarked the money to go towards projects including the controversial £13million single-site civic centre, a £2.5million computer system, and a new cemetery costing just over £2million. The schemes have had to be scaled back and the money found through cuts.

Family now has five generations

Baby David Leo Cameron is the latest arrival to a Dudley family which now proudly spans five generations.

Proud great-grandmother Doris Spragg, aged 88, from Dudley, is "over the moon" to have welcomed him to her clan.

Little David was born five weeks ago.

All five generations of his family, including David's mother Jessica Cameron, aged 22, gathered for their first photograph at Mrs Spragg's home in Chapel Street, Pensnett.

On hand to welcome David to the family was also Mrs Spragg's daughter Maureen Harvey, 65, and grand daughter Jackie Cameron, 43, who both live in Longdon Upon Tern, near Telford, where they run the Tayleur Arms pub.

Smethwick-born Mrs Spragg, who worked in a munitions factory during the Second World War, now has three children, five grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and one great-great grandson.

Although he shares the PM's name, baby David is named after his great-grandfather David Harvey, who died three years ago.



Doris Spragg, seated, with her great-grand daughter, Jessica, great-great-grandson, David, and back, daughter, Maureen Harvey and grand daughter Jackie

Delight as bar plans are pulled

Residents who would have been affected by controversial plans for a late-night bar opposite a church are celebrating after they were withdrawn at the last minute.

The proposals for a bar in the old Barclays Bank in Lye High Street caused anger among locals who claimed the development could cause noise and disruption.

Ghulam Nabi Namdar withdrew his application before it was due to go before Dudley Council licensing chiefs.

Mr Namdar wanted to have dancing and live music at the venue, which is just yards from a quiet residential street and opposite Bethel Chapel.

An application had been made to sell alcohol there and play music until 3am. Live music would also have been held until midnight.

Councillors had started a campaign. Councillor Adrian Turner, who represents Lye and Stourbridge North, said: "We're delighted."

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thechronicle

Shuttle bus laid on while station built

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

A temporary shuttle service operating in Stourbridge while a new £7million bus station is built in the town will now run until the development is complete.

Bulldozers and diggers moved on to the development site in Foster Street East after closure of the old station in October. Since then passengers have been using temporary bus stops set up in Birmingham Street, High Street, Market Street and Parkfield Road with the free shuttle bus scheduled for operation to and from the town centre.

Bosses have been constantly reviewing the usage of the shuttle bus, deciding every few months whether to keep it going.

They have announced they will keep the shuttle running until the development is completed early next year.

In April, it was revealed passenger numbers using the shuttle had increased from 300 to 400 a day.

Completed

Centro spokesperson Mark Langford said: "We are pleased to have been able to extend the shuttle bus until the town's new bus station is completed and open for passengers."

"It is important to provide passengers with a link between the temporary bus stops and Stourbridge town centre during this period and we are happy to be able to continue this service until the project is completed next year."

The new bus station is starting to take shape with some of the frame for the main building already in place and the roof also starting to come together.

The site will include a shop and improved concourse. A subway linking the town centre with the bus station will be extended to bring commuters into the middle of the station.

CCTV, help points and an internal public address system will also be installed.

The shuttle bus operates 8am-6pm Monday-Saturday on a one way loop along Parkfield Road, Vauxhall Road, Birmingham Street, St John's Road, High Street, Market Street, Bell Street, New Street, St John's Road, Church Street and back to Parkfield Road.

New team is kitted up



Members of Ruiton Cons football team, with, front, Richard Farmer and Matt Bird and, back, Peter Evans, Gary Whitehouse, sponsor Shaz Saleem and Lee Jordan

A new football team has been set up to get teenagers off the streets and working together.

The Ruiton Cons are made up of youngsters from the areas around Sedgley and Gornal.

The idea came from members of Upper Gornal Conservative Club, who then drafted in Shaz Saleem, owner of local firm Beacon Taxis to help. The team now has 15 players

and will compete in the Dudley and Cradley Football League next season. Matt Bird, aged 21, a labourer from Sedgley, has become chairman of the team's committee and helped recruit youngsters.

He said: "This is something I've always wanted to do."

Mr Saleem said: "This is a great way of encouraging these lads to do something constructive."

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Croupier guilty over £4,700 casino fraud

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A croupier defrauded a casino out of some £4,700 by paying a punter winnings he did not deserve, a court was told. Lee Madelin, aged 24, was working at the Castle Casino, Dudley when he paid out a total of £4,692 'winnings' to 56-year-old Gurnail Heer who regularly bet there.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told Heer of Dudley Road, Goldthorn Hill, Wolverhampton, was also overpaid when he had won and would be given up to £40 worth of chips when he had only cashed in £20. Madelin of Beechdene Grove, Edington, Birmingham, was caught on CCTV.

Passing

Mr Simon Phillips, prosecuting, said: "Most of the money was repaid on to the tables again by Heer but it was clear that Madelin had been passing him chips and giving him credit he was not entitled to." The offences took place on four nights in May 2009.

Mr Paul Mytton, defending Madelin, said he admitted responsibility for the offence. Mr Balbir Singh, defending Heer, said: "This offence would plainly be caught on CCTV in the end. The cash was recycled at the table so the casino made no significant loss."

Madelin and Heer were both given 26-week prison sentences suspended for two years. Madelin was ordered to carry out 200 hours of unpaid work and has been disqualified from working in the gambling industry for seven years.

Heer must undergo supervision by the probation service for two years and is subject to a curfew between 7pm and 7am for three months. Madelin admitted fraud and Heer aiding and abetting fraud.

Head says farewell to school



Retiring headteacher Sheila Cowan releases 300 balloons during her leaving ceremony, with help from pupils at Brindley Heath Junior School in Kinver

A headteacher bid a fond farewell to staff and pupils by releasing 300 balloons at a ceremony held to mark her final day in charge before retiring.

Sheila Cowan, aged 56, closed the book on her near 35-year teaching career at the end of term last week to pursue other interests - including writing a novel.

Miss Cowan, of Stourbridge, has been headteacher at Brindley Heath Junior School, Kinver, for nine years and staff and pupils made sure her last day was one to remember.

Youngsters wrote fond messages of farewell on the back of pictures of Miss Cowan which were then put up around the school for her to see.

At a special assembly she was named 'pupil of the week' by the children and at the end of the day released 300 balloons on the school field to mark the occasion.

Miss Cowan previously worked as deputy headteacher at Brook Primary School, in Wordsley, for nine years and at the Belle Vue School, also Wordsley, as head of PE and English.



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175/70TR14 Bridgestone B250	£70.23	£130	£250	175/70TR14 Avon ZTS	£53.34	£99	£190	175/70TR14 Budget	£39.43	£70	£130
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185/65HR14 Bridgestone EP150	£80.33	£150	£290	185/65HR14 Avon ZV3	£58.36	£110	£210	185/65HR14 Budget	£41.85	£75	£140
185/65HR15 Bridgestone ER300	£85.64	£160	£310	185/65HR15 Avon ZV3	£62.59	£115	£220	185/65HR15 Budget	£45.48	£85	£160
195/65HR15 Bridgestone B250	£73.16	£135	£260	195/65HR15 Avon ZV3	£57.07	£105	£199	195/65HR15 Budget	£48.13	£90	£170

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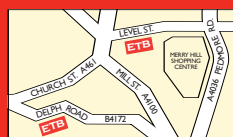
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195/60VR15 Bridgestone ER300	£83.24	£160	£310	195/60VR15 Avon ZV5	£69.56	£130	£250	195/60VR15 Budget	£46.71	£85	£160
195/65VR15 Bridgestone ER300	£70.19	£130	£250	195/65VR15 Avon ZV5	£58.96	£110	£210	195/65VR15 Budget	£50.97	£95	£180
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Pub chain is selling off sites

A dozen pubs across the Midlands – including two in Dudley – have gone on the market with a combined value of around £2 million.

The Little Barrel, Dudley High Street, which is still trading, and the derelict Saracen's Head, Dudley Road, Brierley Hill, are among 22 premises put up for sale by Penn Street Taverns.

The Birmingham firm says market conditions remain tough and it wants to dispose of 10 of its "bottom end pubs" and concentrate on higher end operations.

The Saracen's Head has been boarded up for more than 10 years

and has suffered repeated vandal attacks. It is on the market for £180,000.

Figures show police were called to reports of anti-social behaviour at the pub 34 times during 2010 and fire crews are often called to arson attacks at the site.

Meanwhile, the Little Barrel is being sold for £225,000. The landlady said she was too upset to comment on the news, adding: "It is a real shock."

Chairman of Dudley Campaign for Real Ale (Camra) Stan Stevens said he feared the pubs – which are being sold as vacant – would be turned into housing. Camra's pubs' protections

officer for the Dudley area, Tony Hitchmough, added: "I am very worried for their future. Any change is always worrying for the pubs in question."

"I would like to see them sold off to a landlord or brewer who is willing to invest a little time and money to return these two places to their former glory."

Other pubs are available at locations in Wednesbury, Walsall, Tipton, Oldbury, Birmingham and Stafford.

Penn Street Taverns operations director Gill Walker said the company needed to sell some of its 45 outlets to survive.

Road closure will hit trade say shops

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Businesses along one of the busiest routes through Dudley town centre have voiced fears trade could plummet after it was announced the road will shut for more than a month for roadworks.

Wolverhampton Street will close between September 29 and November 2 as part of a wider 18-month programme of roadworks in the town. But traders in the street say they are already suffering from the closure of nearby roads such as Stafford Street, which has led to a drop in customers.

Janet Simpson, who runs Janet's Hair and Beauty Products in Wolverhampton Street, said: "It is a main road so it is going to cause problems for me when it is closed."

Customers

"I have already lost customers because people find it difficult to get to the shop as Stafford Street is shut so it will be even worse when Wolverhampton Street is closed."

"I know they have to do these roadworks but to close the road for such a long time at once is not going to be very good for business."

Bosses at the Murco petrol station said they too feared they could lose more customers when Wolverhampton Street is shut while Cynthia Burgin, owner of Burgins News, says she is concerned about losing passing trade.

The roadworks programme, which is being carried out by numerous utilities firms, began in April and will affect 64 roads in the town centre, although not all of the roads will be closed at the same time.

Transport chief Councillor Patrick Harley, said diversions would be in place.

"These are essential works that the utility companies have to get on with," he said. "By not closing off individual roads the misery would just be prolonged."



Janet Simpson, of Janet's Hair and Beauty Products, Wolverhampton Street



Busy traffic near a sign warning of congestion around Wolverhampton Street

Mayor and bear back awards

It was three cheers for children and their families at a Black Country community centre celebrating with a prize-giving ceremony.

The Mayor of Dudley Councillor Michael Evans was guest of honour at the event at Bromley Pensnett Children's Centre. Around 50 children and their parents attended the fun-filled day which had been organised by staff.

Certificates and prizes were given to the children aged up to five for some of the work and activities they have done over the last 12 months.

Adult courses are also run at the centre to help parents care for their children and also improve skills such as literacy.

Students plea for subjects

Two members of Dudley Camera Club are looking for people to photograph.

As part of a portfolio to gain qualifications, Stuart Leggett and Rick Williams are looking for men and women aged 18 and over. For details, email stu.leggett@hotmail.co.uk.



At the children's centre is Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Michael Evans, Mayor Consort, Sue Greenaway with staff, children, parents and Bromley Bear

Extra cash allocated to repairs

An extra £250,000 has been set aside by Dudley Council to carry out repairs on flats in the area over the next year.

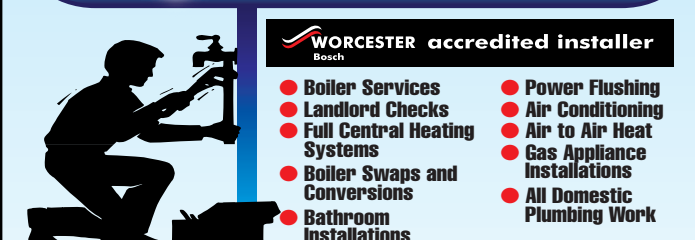
Bosses are set to spend around £3.7million repairing thousands of council owned properties during the financial year running until March 2012.

But after carrying out inspections at high rise blocks across the borough they have now agreed to earmark another £250,000 to ensure all work needed is carried out.

The council has 18 blocks of high rise flats across the borough including several on Lower Derry Street in Brierley Hill as well as Bricklin Court, Chapel Street, Brierley Hill, Chaucer House in Severn Road, Cradley, Kennedy Court in Green Street, Stourbridge and Wells Court in St John's Street in Netherton.

It was reported recently that the council is looking to set up a new company to provide the repairs and housing maintenance in the future.

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thechronicle

Plans unveiled for £3m health centre

dudleychronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Plans for a new £3 million health centre in Pensnett offering a GP surgery and specialist treatments have been unveiled.

The complex in High Oak would offer services such as physiotherapy, speech and language therapy and midwifery. NHS Dudley, which is behind the scheme, hopes to submit a planning application to the council by December.

Construction work is expected to take 40 weeks and health chiefs hope to have the new building open to the public by September 2013.

Early designs for the centre, which will house High Oak Surgery, have been drawn up and residents are now being asked for their views and suggestions.

The plans can be viewed at Pharmacy Galleries, High Oak Surgery, Brerley Hill Library, Kingsford Medical Practice and Pensnett Community Centre. People will be able to fill in a short questionnaire.

Contribute

Project manager Kat Rose said: "We are delighted to be able to start planning for a new health centre in Pensnett and are really keen for local people to contribute to the plans."

"It is really important that this building meets the needs of the local community and we are keen to hear from everyone in the area to tell us what they think the new building should look like."

"The questionnaire is really simple to complete and can be completed locally in Pensnett or on our website. We really want to make sure that when the health centre opens in 2013, everyone who lives and works in the area is proud of the building."

NHS Dudley, which oversees and commissions healthcare in the borough, is also working on plans for a new health centre in Lye, which is expected to open by August 2013.

Under the plans the Limes Surgery in High Street and the Pederners Road Surgery would relocate to the centre along with the Health for Life shop.

The questionnaire and images can be viewed online by visiting NHS Dudley's website at www.nhs.uk/dudley

Prow-d of Good Heart



Alan Priddy with the team that have been working on the Good Heart

The next stage of a £1 million powerboat made in the Black Country has been unveiled as part of an ambitious bid to sail around the world in record breaking time.

Workers at steel firm Microlite Structures on the Thoresby Trading Estate, Dudley, have been given the job of building the boat, named Good Heart, by ad-

venturer Alan Priddy, aged 58. He hopes to beat the existing 61-day record as part of his Global Circumnavigation Challenge. The project began in April. Recently the hull of the boat was turned over for the first time using two cranes to move the six-ton steel structure. The team can now start fitting out the interior. The boat is 90ft long.

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thechronicle

£500,000 spent on cutting speed limits

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Nearly half a million pounds is being spent on cutting speed limits at blackspots and built up areas in the Midlands in a bid to improve safety.

A total of 17 roads in the Black Country, Staffordshire and Wyre Forest were made into 20mph zones over the last year at a cost of £370,000. And £120,000 went on lowering limits on national speed limit carriageways and 40mph routes and there are plans for more of the schemes.

Councillors claim the limits protect pedestrians and particularly families. The cash is spent on advertising the changes, consulting the public and engineering works.

In Dudley, £15,000 was spent on reducing the speed limit at Shell Corner in Halesowen and around £2,000 on Birmingham Street, Stourbridge.

Ramps

In Sandwell, £100,000 went on extending an existing 20mph zone in Abbey Road, Smethwick to Abbey Junior and Infants School and St Gregory's Primary School. Speed ramps were also built on the road.

Walsall's Sutton Road, became 30mph at a cost of £60,000, including installing a flashing speed limit sign.

Cannock Road in Penkridge became 20mph, while roads outside 16 schools in Stafford are 20mph during school hours.

In Wolverhampton the council has in the last 12 months spent £99,000 on eight 20mph zones in Ormes Lane, Clarendon Street, Haden Hill, Larches Lane, Fifth Avenue, Maxwell Road and Granville Street.

The A456 in Kidderminster became 40mph at a cost of £60,000.

Campaigners say the speed limits are not a solution to improving road safety. Paul Watters, head of public affairs at the AA, said: "By just whacking up signs everywhere you are not going to change things dramatically."

Have a quiet word with mums



Edith Rogers, back row third from left, with other mothers and staff celebrate finishing their course in parenting skills outside the Savoy Centre, Dudley

Calm reigns in these mothers' households now – after they graduated from a parenting course.

Seventeen women – all caring for children aged between five and 16 in the Dudley borough – took part in a free, six-week course at the Savoy Centre, Netherton, Dudley.

Mrs Edith Rodgers, aged 39, of Woodside Road, Dudley, mother of two boys with learning difficulties, Mitchell, aged 15, and Ronan, nine, was among the graduates.

She said she often used to shout at

them if they did something wrong.

"But the course has helped me to talk to them instead and keep my voice lowered," she said.

"The kids are responding better and it's calm in the house, whereas it used to be quite tense. My husband Christopher is appreciating the difference too."

Dudley Council's parent support team led the weekly sessions, which gave mothers the opportunity to develop parenting skills and share tips and experiences.

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Julia reprises her role in Fiddler musical 30 years on

An actress from the Black Country will step back in time when she reprises a role she first tackled 30 years ago. Julia Siviter is starring in Quarry Bank Operatic Society's latest production of Fiddler on the Roof as Golde. It is a character the 53-year-old first took on as a 23-year-old back in 1981 for Old Hill Tabernacle Operatic Society.

At the time, one of her daughters was played by Rachael Cooper, whose daughter Alex is now following in her mother's footsteps and playing the same role.

Mrs Siviter, of Wordsley, said: "I was far too young for the part back then – the actresses playing my daughters were older than me – so it feels right to play it again now."

The mother-of-one still has a cutting from the local press in 1981 previewing the performance. She has been a member of the Quarry Bank society for nine years and this is her first major role. She will be joined by her son Adam, 24, and husband Lawson who both also have parts in the show. The musical tells the story of Golde's husband Tevye, a poor dairyman who tries to instil in his five daughters the traditions of his tight-knit Jewish community.

It runs from September 20 to 24 at Netherton Arts Centre, Northfield Road, Netherton, which has been the home of the operatic society for almost 40 years. As part of its anniversary celebrations earlier this year, members staged Titanic: a New Musical, telling the story of the liner's maiden voyage and the hopes and dreams of those on board. The group is also looking for two boys aged between eight and 12 to take part in the show.

Anyone interested should contact secretary Stephen Howard on 07511 065886 for information.

For tickets call Linda Raybould on 01384 820902 or email her on linda.raybould@yahoo.co.uk



Members of Old Hill Tabernacle Operatic Society in 1981, including Julia Siviter, centre right, and Rachael Cooper, front left, whose daughter Alex now plays the same part



Members of QBOS, front, Alex Cooper, Taylor Floyd, Isobel Cooper, centre, Peter Walker, Julia Siviter, back, Morgan Floyd, Zoe Bunn, Grace Lawton-Jones, Alex Detheridge

Group aims to save £36m

More than £1million a year will be saved at a Black Country hospital group under new government plans to cut down on paying private investors, an MP said.

Dudley Group of Hospitals stands to save £36m from its outgoings. The trust entered into a £160m private finance initiative contract to build the new Russells Hall, Corbett and Guest hospitals in 2000, and have to pay around 13 per cent of their annual turnover in repayments – around £25m a year. Under the new rules, this could be reduced by five per cent – or £1.25million a year.

If the current arrangements had continued, the project would have cost just over £2 billion by the end of the 40-year deal. Stourbridge MP Margot James is one of 80 MPs who have said the PFI which had made the building of the hospitals possible was one of the "most onerous". "To be paying back 13 per cent of your turnover is just an enormous financial burden to bear," she said. "The deals were incredibly favourable towards the private sector to try and get them on board."

The savings are expected to come from deals with the private firms who have invested in the projects, identifying any unnecessary levels of service, how insurance is managed, and management of the building.

Top marks for drama students

Drama students at Halesowen College have gained top marks from an external assessor.

The pupils from Westminster School and Halesbury School were praised for their creative efforts during their recent circus performance at the college.

Each student took on roles from acting to set design and now their work is being used to highlight top forms of special needs education. There were also presentations for the hardest working and most improved student.

Elizabeth Bridgland, the group's tutor, said: "All the students have really excelled this year and their performance was fantastic."

Residents uprooted

Dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Eighteen elderly residents at a care centre have suddenly faced being uprooted and moved to a new home after the owner announced he was closing down.

And one resident's family has accused Sandwell Council's social services team of moving her from the place she loved to a home almost 10 miles away without telling them. The owner of Westfield Lodge, in Norton Road, Stourbridge, Dennis Dawes, gave 28 days' notice to Dudley Council on July 6.

Dudley Council funded nine out of the 18 residents living there and has been working with their families and staff to find them alternative care homes.

The final two residents remaining at Westfield Lodge they were due to move to an alternative home by the end of last week.

The daughter of 84-year-old retired draper Gladys Dunne, who had lived at the home for eight years and used to come from Oldbury, claims that Sandwell Council "removed" her from Westfield Lodge and moved her to a home in Woodsetton, Dudley.

Prepared

Angela Weston, formerly of Stourbridge, said: "This happened without our knowledge."

"My mother was very much at home there and, as she has dementia, needs to be prepared before anything happens." She said they had drawn up a short-list of alternative homes but had yet to make a decision.

Councillor Ann Jaron, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for adult social care, said: "Since the issues came up at Westfield Lodge, we have done everything we can to find Mrs Dunne a suitable home in what has been a very fast-moving and difficult situation for all concerned."

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MERRY Hill Shopping Centre is set to hold the largest two-day family festival in the Midlands on August 12 and 13 – the place to be this school summer holiday.

The Big Bear Bash will see a whole host of fun-packed activities taking place at the centre, including a special visit from popular children's character, Little Charley Bear.

Little Charley Bear will be entertaining children with his new live show, Let's Pretend, at 11am, noon, 1pm, 2pm and 3pm on both days.

Tickets

Live performances from pre-school band, The Bubblepops, a Dudley Zoo pets zone, Westfield Kids' Club tent, competition prizes zone, giant outdoor beach, emergency services display, face painting and fun fair zone are among the many activities in store for families from 10am-4pm during the two-day extravaganza.

The Chronicle has teamed up with Merry Hill to give one lucky reader the chance of winning a family pass (for up to six people) to The Big Bear Bash on August 13 plus, a £500 gift card to spend at Merry Hill Shopping Centre.

Tickets cost £2 each or £10 for a family pass (for up to six people) and are available from the centre's Concierge desk. More information about The Big Bear Bash can be found at <http://uk.westfield.com/merryhill>

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Seal of approval for leading window firm

DESPITE the shrinking economy, one local company has grown to become one of the leading manufacturers of uPVC windows, doors and conservatories in the West Midlands.

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Family-run

The company is a family-run business with two brothers, David and Richard Carter, at the helm.

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L-r: Sally Wynne, sales, Cathy Davidson, accounts, Adrian Jackson, director, Zoe Carter, reception, Jane Carter, ops manager

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"In our showroom, we have six full-sized conservatories fully-fitted with fixtures and fittings to show our customers exactly what they're buying."

"Energyseal is also looking to create more jobs in the local area."

Richard, trade director, adds: "When we started manufacturing, we had three employees. Three years on we now employ 10 fabricators, two fitting teams and six office staff."

"We are always looking to expand our business

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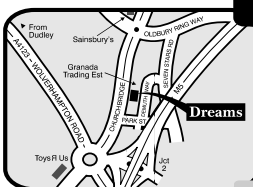
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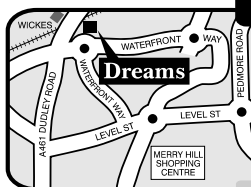
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Family focus at events

Two Midland beauty spots will be hosting a regular programme of family events for the first time with the aim of drawing in more visitors to the sights.

Sessions at Clent Hills and Kinver Edge include the chance to do Tai Chi out in the countryside as well as family adventure walks and drumming workshops.

The events programme is part of a plan to make both sites more family friendly.

Other projects include the development of family explorer backpacks for people to hire

from the Rock Houses at Kinver Edge and working with local primary schools to design a natural play area at the Clent Hills.

Laura Broadhurst, community engagement officer for the Clent Hills and Kinver Edge, said: "It's a really exciting time for us, we've invested a lot into developing our family offer and it's fantastic to see so many families out here getting some fresh air and enjoying the countryside".

For more information contact Laura Broadhurst on 07920 181605 or laura.broadhurst@nationaltrust.org.uk

Teenager faces prison

A teenager found with 35 rolls of lead flashing has been warned he could face prison after pleading guilty to handling stolen goods.

Dean Groom, aged 18, of Cross Lane, Beacon Estate, Sedgley, was one of three men in a van stopped in the early hours of July 5 by police officers in Shaw Road, Coseley. Mrs Clare Davis, prosecuting at Dudley Magistrates Court said he had told police he and a friend found the rolls of lead flashing

lying by a road in Sedgley, and decided to take it to a scrapyard for weighing.

Chairman of magistrates Mr Ian Hart told him: "We are looking at a high community sentence level. However, that is not binding on the next magistrates you will face. That means they are considering all options, including custody." In his defence, Mrs Nishi Kumar said he had fully admitted his involvement as soon as he was caught.

Theft-bid men found metal too heavy to lift

Three men cut through a security fence to steal metal sheets from a Dudley firm, only to find they could not lift them, a court heard.

Nicky Danks, Daniel Fox and Gareth Fox had been "engaged in the Black Country tradition of tatting" when they saw the metal in a skip at Midtherm Ltd, in Shaw Road. Dudley magistrates heard that the three had been passing the site in their van at around 9.15pm and had decided to take the metal.

The court was told Daniel Fox had used wire clippers to cut through the fence leading to a yard and had been followed in first by Danks and then by Gareth Fox.

But they had quickly discovered the metal sheets, worth around £150, were too heavy to lift and were unable to load them into the van.

Police then swooped on the yard after being alerted by CCTV and the three men were arrested. They admitted to police they had planned to steal the metal.

Daniel Fox, aged 22, of Central Drive, Coseley, Gareth Fox, 28, Brunel Court, Coseley, and Danks, 20, of Sycamore Road, Tipton, pleaded guilty to attempted theft.

They were all given a two-year conditional discharge and each ordered to pay £5 compensation to the company for damaging the fence. They also have to pay £85 costs.

Mr Mark Cooper, prosecuting, said: "All three were engaged in the Black Country tradition of tatting. However, in this case the metal still belonged to somebody."

Putting

"They were unable to make off with the metal because it was too heavy and were still at the site when the police attended."

Mr Jason Georgiou, defending, said: "Taking the metal was a decision all three agreed on. When the police arrived they were fully co-operative."

Metal thefts continue to plague the Black Country with police recently revealing around 300 drain covers had been taken in little more than a year.

Sandwell and Dudley were revealed to be hotspots for the crime putting both pedestrians and vehicles at greater risk of an accident.

Metal castings have also been stolen from the Vanguard Factory, in Lye, and an ornamental rifle was taken from a war memorial in Smethwick in recent attacks.

This week the council's housing office in Cannock was forced to close temporarily after 40 metres of copper cable was stolen following a raid by metal thieves.

Claims have also been made that the sale of Willenhall Leisure Centre is being put at risk by thieves plundering the building for metal.

The site has been raided between four and six times since the centre closed last August. Items such as radiators and pipework have been taken.

Man, 44, admits charges

A pharmacist was caught on camera swinging a hammer at a restaurant owner who had to defend himself with a chair.

James Blount was captured on video footage lunging at Dino Kamelzarour armed with a hammer in one hand and a pair of scissors in the other.

The fracas took place outside Mr Kamelzarour's Bella Luna restaurant in Kinver, on December 11, Stafford Crown Court heard last week.

Blount, aged 44, of Church View Gardens, Kinver, admitted charges of affray and possessing a CS gas canister.

He was given a 12-month prison sentence suspended for two years and ordered to carry out 150 hours unpaid work.

Blount must also pay costs of £600.

The court was also told he could now face disciplinary action by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society.

Mr Kamelzarour wrote to the court: "I am glad to say we are now once again the best of friends."

Blount said he had the CS gas canister for self defence.

Dancers warned of festival event threat

dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Hundreds of dancers face disappointment next year after a long-running festival announced its dance section risks being scrapped.

Organisers of the annual Dudley Festival of Music, Drama and Dance are desperately seeking a new secretary to run the dance events after the position became vacant.

If a volunteer cannot be found in time there will be no option but to scrap the dance part of the festival – although the music and drama events would go ahead as normal.

Chairman Gillian Bloore said removal of dance events would be "absolutely devastating" as more than 600 dancers from around the country regularly attended.

Heats are also held at the event where dancers can qualify for the All-England Dance Championships which would be disrupted if the events did not go ahead.

The previous secretary decided to stand down earlier last month due to personal commitments and organisers need to fill the post at the earliest opportunity.

Applications

The secretary is responsible for taking in applications for performers, arranging the timetable of events and ensuring everything runs on schedule.

The festival brings thousands of performers together at Dudley College's Broadway campus every March.

Organisers said they were proceeding as normal but they were facing a race against time to find a volunteer.

Mrs Bloore said: "It is a vitally important position and if we cannot find someone willing to take over then there is a real risk of the dance part of the festival having to be cancelled next year. This would be an absolutely devastating decision to make but we would have no choice."

Anyone interested in volunteering is asked to call her on 01584 837536.

Putting a value on treasures



Fields valuer Alison Snowdon gets ready for the event

Antiques, family heirlooms, toys and collectables are being dusted down for a valuation day at Broadfield House Glass Museum.

Antiques and collectables expert Mark Hannam, from Fieldings Auctioneers, Stourbridge will be at the museum in Compton Drive, Kingswinford this Saturday from 10am to 3pm.

There is a £1 charge per valuation, maximum of three per person, with proceeds going to a charity supporting the museum.

Organisers say the event is also an opportunity for children and young people to share their collections.

Cabinet member Councillor David Stanley said valuation day was a regular favourite at the museum.

"They have particular expertise in crafts and textiles, vintage clothing, ceramics, furniture, pictures and collectables," he said.

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LJD Furniture would like to welcome all customers to their new showroom, after re-locating from Pitcairn Drive, Halesowen, to Broadcote Industrial Estate, Station Road, Cradley.

With over 25 years in business, you can't really go wrong when choosing where to purchase your next suite, or bed.

Quality is the main objective here, with each suite being hand-built by a team of trained specialist craftsmen, with years of experience and using only the best fabrics, fillings and furniture frames being made of hard wood and, guaranteed for the life of the suite.

There's a wide range of services on offer too, ranging from custom

made to measure furniture, to recover and repairs, with 100's of fabrics to choose from to create your own style.

And that's not just for the suites, they also offer this service for mattresses and divans. You can be assured that, whatever your requirements, LJD can fulfil them. There's a huge range of products ranging from 3 piece suites, recliners, armchairs to corner suites, footstools and scatter cushions.

Their bedding section consists of mattresses, Divans, Frames and Headboards. They are also able to supply made to measure mattresses and divans, pine or painted bedroom furniture.

We also offer a full range of recliners, from manual to dual actions and also "lift & rise". We can also make sofas and chairs made to your requirements to match your recliner.

Why not pop along and visit their new showroom at Broadcote Trading Estate, off Station Road in Cradley, if you can't make it there, you can visit their displays inside the Cornbow Shopping Centre on selected days through August, or visit www.ljdfurniture.co.uk where you can visit a wide range of our products.

Should you wish to visit our showroom but have mobility difficulties, why not call us and we can arrange to collect and return you to your home.

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thechronicle

Firm hit by six thefts in a month

Metal worth tens of thousands of pounds has been stolen after thieves targeted a Dudley foundry six times in just one month.

Thieves have been caught on CCTV in vans breaking into The Vanguard Foundry, in Bottle Lane, Lye, in a series of overnight raids.

In the most recent attack, £13,600 of specialised Gietberg manifolds were stolen, along with 12 Churchill manifolds, worth £2,300.

Pe Adam Pitt, from the Lye neighbourhood policing team, said CCTV had been recorded showing the burglary in progress. The first of the two vans caught on CCTV between 10.30pm on July 26 and 12.35am on July 27 is a high-top transit van with two orange beacons on the roof and a chevron pattern on rear doors. It also bears a logo reading "AB" on the sides and rear.

On July 18, 150 castings worth around £10,000 were stolen by thieves who climbed in through a window.

The second van caught on camera is white with a logo on the sides reading "1UP". Anyone with information can call PC Pitt on 0345 113 5000 ext 7905 6537.

Courses to combat stress

A charity in Dudley is running courses aimed at reducing stress and anxiety in the workplace.

Dudley Mind has trained 10 people who will be offering skills to employers. Training project manager Liz Sewell said: "Employers are now recognising how having this knowledge can potentially save them thousands of pounds." For information call 01384 442988.

Bike crash survivor says thank you to hospital

A Black Country father who was not expected to survive after an horrific motorbike crash said thank you to the hospital that cared for him – with a little help from his friends.

Andy Darby, aged 41, spent a month in intensive care after suffering serious brain injuries during the smash in Sedgley in September. The father-of-three was riding his Suzuki bike when he collided with a Fiat Punto on Dudley Road – just yards from his home in Elmbridge Way.

Firefighters save foal from ditch

Firefighters have told how they fought for more than 90 minutes to save the life of a week-old foal trapped in a four foot deep water-filled ditch.

Oxygen was used to resuscitate the foal, which slipped under water several times during the rescue attempt, and they helped massage it back to life while they awaited the arrival of a vet.

Fire crews from Dudley and Tipton, along with the water rescue squad from Perry Barr and the technical rescue team from Bickenhill, were called to a culvert off Bryce Road, Pensnett, shortly after 3pm last Friday.

Two teenage boys fishing nearby saw the animal and raised the alarm. Watch commander Mark Smith, from Dudley White Watch, said the crews had to build a temporary bridge and lay ladders across the culvert, and between them had to lift the white and black horse up the steep embankment to safety.

"The water was freezing and it was very distressed, and it went unconscious as we were pulling it out," he said.

"We covered it in a canvas sheet to keep it warm and there was still a very faint heartbeat, so we started to massage it and gave it oxygen for around 90 minutes. The vet told us our actions had saved its life."

He suffered brain damage, multiple broken bones and severed nerves, meaning he cannot move his left arm. His friends arranged a 10-mile fancy dress walk in aid of Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital, via some of the pubs Mr Darby used to drink in.

Though Mr Darby, a former drainage engineer, cannot take part, he says he wanted to thank the hospital staff for keeping him alive.

During the first week after the accident Mr Darby was on a "do not resuscitate" list as his injuries were so critical.

Terrible

His partner of 26 years, Nicky Hughes, 41, said: "We were told to expect the worse and for weeks after we didn't know if he would survive. We were just hoping he would come round – it was terrible."

But as the weeks passed by, he slowly gained strength and came round after about six weeks. Staff at the hospital were amazed when Mr Darby walked in earlier this year.

Though Mr Darby still suffers bouts of pain and struggles with memory loss, he says he feels "lucky to be alive".

He said: "I still can't remember anything about what happened."

The group of walkers included his sons Shaun, 23 and Mitchell, 22 and Lauren, 17, all donning fancy dress.

They will make their way from The Clifton in Sedgley town centre to Russells Hall Hospital, via six other pubs last Sunday.

There is a Facebook page where you can log on and search for Andy Darby's Fancy Dress Fun Run.



Getting ready for the 10-mile fancy dress walk for the hospital are, front, Mike and Imogen Hood, Ella Bate, Lynn Darby, centre, Megan Harrison, Mr Darby, back, Natalie Darby, Emily Judge, Shaun and Lauren Darby, Daniel Sibley, Nicky Hughes

Surgeon's appeal is rejected

An orthopaedic surgeon who worked at a Black Country hospital for seven years says he is financially ruined after losing a bid to overturn a professional body's findings against him. Shah Khalid Sulaiman was given a £9,374 High Court bill after losing an appeal against a decision that his fitness to practise is "impaired". Mr Sulaiman was an orthopaedic and trauma consultant at Russell Halls Hospital, Dudley, from 2000 to 2007, but concerns were expressed over his work. It led to an investigation by the General Medical Council, which in May last year said his "professional performance was unacceptable" in certain areas.

The GMC's fitness to practise panel imposed strict conditions on his registration, meaning he can only work under supervision.

But Mr Sulaiman launched a High Court challenge.

He told Mrs Justice Nicola Davies there were problems in the way the GMC's assessment procedure was carried out which meant the panel's decision should be overturned.

The judge returned to the court a month after the appeal hearing and rejected Mr Sulaiman's case, before giving him the costs bill.

Sailing club to hold taster day

Himley Hall Sailing Club is inviting people to take to the water on August 13 and 14.

Members will be running sailing taster days to let people try out the sport on the Great Lake accompanied by a qualified instructor. To book call Ian Sim on 01902 755149.

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2 Days • 1 Night: 13 August from £149.95



Isle of Wight - Corner House Hotel

The Corner House is set in the glorious resort of Sandown, within walking distance of the beach, pier and shops.

Included excursions:

- Full day tour of the Island
- Full day tour taking in Ryde & Osborne House. (admission extra)
- Half day visit to Godshill
- Half day visit to Newport

8 Days • 7 Nights: 13 August from £369.95



Strawberry Fields & Penny Lane

Enjoy a visit to the dynamic city of Liverpool and soak up the atmosphere of the Beatles. On day 1 we take you to central Liverpool where you can join our optional excursion on a ferry across the Mersey - £8 per person. On day 2 we have included a guided 'Beatles' sightseeing tour.

2 Days • 1 Night:
13 August, 24 September from £79.95



Pontins Super Breaks

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Adults from £99.95

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Southport - set next to a great beach - 15 August, & 19 September

Brean Sands - breathtaking West Country seaside resort location - 05 September

Prestatyn - set between the rolling hills of Wales and miles of award winning beaches - 22 August, 19 September

Camber Sands - set next to a long sandy beach near Rye - 29 August, 12 Sept, 24 October



Great Little Trains of North Wales

See North Wales with its rugged coastlines, ruined castles and endless panoramas of the Snowdonia National Park. The Westminster Hotel is set on the sea front in the seaside resort of Rhyl.

Included excursions:

- Caernarfon & journey on West Highland Railway
- Picturesque village of Betws-y-Coed
- Bala Railway & Portmeirion
- Ffestiniog Railway

5 Days • 4 Nights: 22 August from £199.95



Edinburgh Tattoo & the Lake District

See this great spectacle set in Edinburgh's majestic castle and enjoy a visit to the Lake District

3 Days • 2 Nights: 19 August from £199.95

Fort William & the Isle of Skye

See Scotland on our great break based at Fort William - situated on the southern end of the Great Glen. The surrounding countryside is some of Britain's most spectacular. The Croft Anna Hotel is set in a great location on the shores of Loch Linne.

Included excursions:

- Journey on the West Highland line to Mallaig
- Visit to Inverness

7 Days • 6 Nights:
05 Sept from £389.95



Isle of Wight Weekend - Shanklin

Shanklin is situated on the south east corner of the beautiful Isle of Wight. The Medehamstede Hotel is set a short stroll from the cliff lift in the resort of Shanklin.

Included excursion:

- Ventnor, Alum Bay and the Needles

3 Days • 2 Nights:
09 September from £89.95

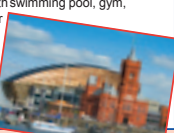


Girls Getaway Weekend Cophorne Hotel, Cardiff

Treat yourself to a luxurious weekend away. Shop in central Cardiff before checking in to the 4* Cophorne Hotel. There is a health and leisure centre with swimming pool, gym, sauna and whirlpool bath. Dinner is included.

On day 2 the hotel have included a half hour treatment. Return via the charming Cotswolds.

2 Days • 1 Night:
17 Sept from £99.95



Scottish Majesty Loch Ness & the Isle of Skye

Based at the town of Dingwall close to the Cromarty Firth this is a great way to see some of Scotland's spectacular scenery. The National Hotel is set in the heart of the town.

Included excursions:

- Loch Ness and Inverness
- Plockton, Portree and Isle of Skye

5 Days • 4 Nights: 12 September from £189.95
24 October from £169.95



Swansea & The Gower Peninsular Ibis Swansea Hotel

The perfect break combining the delights of the Gower Peninsular and a half board stay at the Ibis Swansea. This looks out on the waterfront development and offers easy access to the city shopping and entertainment districts.

Included Excursions:

- Gower Peninsular
- Scenic drive along the Vale of Neath
- Visit to St. Fagans Welsh National Park

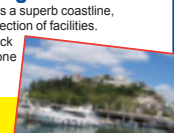
5 Days • 4 Nights:
15 August from £199.95



Torquay - Waters Edge Hotel

The popular resort of Torquay has a superb coastline, attractive harbour and a wide selection of facilities. The Waters Edge Hotel is set back from Limered beach and has one of the finest locations in Tor Bay.

4 Days • 3 Nights:
12 August from £109.95



Weymouth - Carlton Hotel

Weymouth has a fabulous beach and a fascinating harbour as well as some narrow shopping streets and the remains of a Tudor castle. It is a great place for a holiday.

8 Days • 7 Nights: 20 August from £299.95



See Europe

from just
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Black Forest & Alsace House Party - with free bar

The Black Forest is one of Germany's most popular regions with deep forests, winding rivers, rolling hills and pretty villages.

Optional excursions:

- Lake Titisee & Staufen - £19.95 pp
- Spa town of Baden Baden - £19.95 pp
- Alsace visiting Strasbourg - £19.95 pp

Special Offer: Book all 3 excursions for just £49 per person

5 Days • 4 Nights: 08 August & 26 September from £199.95



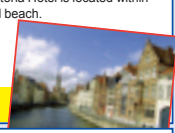
Ostend's Golden Coast

The seaside resort of Ostend is famous for its long stretch of sandy beach, vibrant night life, colourful bars, cafes and seafood restaurants. The New Astoria Hotel is located within walking distance of the centre and beach.

Included excursions:

- Dutch border town of Sluis & Bruges
- Amsterdam

5 Days • 4 Nights:
22 August from £199.95



Rhine Valley & the Black Forest with special Black Forest Party Night including free bar

Enjoy a holiday combining the delights of the picturesque areas. We stay for 2 nights in the Rhine Valley. During your stay we have an optional visit to the Moselle Valley - £19.95pp. On day 3, after breakfast, we take you on a Rhine cruise. Afterwards we make our way to the Black Forest. Tonight we have a special Black Forest evening with a dinner featuring Black Forest specialities followed by a 2 hour free bar between 8.30 and 10.30pm. On day 4 you can join our optional excursion visiting beautiful Lake Titisee, Staufen and delightful Freiburg - £19.95 per person. Special Offer: Book both excursions for just £30pp

5 Days • 4 Nights: 05 September & 10 October from £199.95



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Experience the finest alpine scenery. Stay at 4* Alpenhof set in the heart of the Kitzbuhel Alps in Brixen. Wellness centre with indoor pool, sauna and steam room.

Included excursions:

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- Grossglockner Glacier
- Berchtesgaden and the Eagle's Nest

8 Days • 7 Nights:
10 September from £439.95



Amsterdam & Bruges 4* President Hotel

Enjoy a break taking in visits to cosmopolitan Amsterdam with its handsome tall gabled buildings, narrow tree lined streets and tiny bridges combined with a visit to Bruges. The President Hotel has a top class range of

3 Days • 2 Nights:
23 September & 21 October from £139.95



Ostend Free Bar Breaks

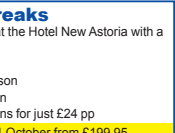
Enjoy Ostend and a 3 night stay at the Hotel New Astoria with a free bar on each night.

Optional excursions:

- Sluis & Bruges - £9.95 per person
- Amsterdam - £19.95 per person

Special Offer: Book both excursions for just £24 pp

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Mayo & Galway - Downhill House Hotel

Enjoy some of the best of Ireland's vigorous and awe-inspiring natural beauty combined with Mayo's breathtaking coastlines and spectacular mountains.

Your hotel - the Downhill House is set on the banks of the Brosna River on the outskirts of the bustling town of Ballina. Features include a restaurant, bar health and leisure club with indoor pool, jacuzzi and steam room.

Included excursions:

- A visit to Sligo - famous for its links with Yeats. We then visit Donegal town which is overlooked by the castle
- A visit to Galway city - one of Ireland's most lively cities.

Optional excursion:

- Connemara: This is one of the wildest spots in Ireland. The 12 Ben Mountains overlook the area and the town of Clifden is known as the capital of Connemara. We head round the National Park and pass the picturesque village of Cong and over Lough Corrib. Price: £9.95pp

5 Days • 4 Nights: 16 August from £259.95, 04 September & 11 October from £239.95, 14 November from £199.95



Paris Weekend with visit to Versailles

See the world's most enchanting city and discover the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame & the Arc de Triomphe. On day 2 an optional Paris morning excursion taking the main sights and on day 3 a visit to Versailles.

3 Days • 2 Nights

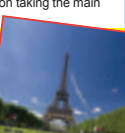
19 August, 16 Sept, 21 Oct from £129.95
11 November from £99.95

4 Days • 3 Nights:

Included excursions:

- Capital tour taking in the main sights
- Paris by night and Montparnasse tower
- Versailles (admission to Chateau extra)

09 September & 14 October from £169.95



Lake Garda, Venice & Verona by First Class Coach

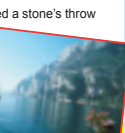
Escape to the beautiful Lake Garda, nestled at the foot of the Dolomites with its mild Mediterranean climate and picturesque mountains.

4* Caravel or Club la Vela. Both are situated a stone's throw from the centre of Torbole. Lake, spas and shops are within easy walking distance.

Included excursions:

- Venice • Verona
- Lake Garda circular tour

8 Days • 7 Nights
10 September - £489.95, 22 October from £379.95



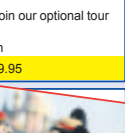
Irish Delight 4* Bettystown Court Hotel

Experience the warm Irish welcome at the stunning Bettystown with its amazing beach. Hotel features include a restaurant, bar and leisure club.

Included excursions:

- Visit to historic Dublin. As well you can join our optional tour of the old Jameson distillery - £16 pp
- Visit to the quaint fishing village of Howth

5 Days • 4 Nights: 25 September from £199.95



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Mickey's Magical Fireworks & Bonfire

3 Days • 2 Nights - with 2 Day Hopper Ticket - Disney's Hotel Santa Fe

03 November from £139.95

Mickey's Magical Fireworks & Bonfire

4 Days • 3 Nights - with 2 Day Hopper Ticket - Disney's Hotel Santa Fe

03 November from £169.95

Disney Enchanted Christmas

4 Days • 3 Nights - with 2 Day Hopper Ticket - Disney's Hotel Santa Fe

11, 18 & 24 November from £159.95

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Display of star shots just so rock and roll



Mick Jagger relaxing ahead of a show in Birmingham



Little Richard playing at West Bromwich Town Hall

From a smiling Mick Jagger relaxing in a chair ahead of a television interview in Birmingham to a brooding Little Richard staring intently into the camera – these amazing images have never been on display before.

They are now part of an exhibition that celebrates the region's musical heritage.

Home of Metal is running across Birmingham and the Black Country in a series of exhibitions, events and gigs throughout the rest of 2011.

And these exclusive 1960s prints of major rock and roll stars taken from the personal collection of former Black Sabbath manager Jim Simpson are now on display at Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery and Haden Hill House in Cradley Heath.

Charismatic

Mr Simpson, aged 73, who now runs Big Bear Records and lives in Edgbaston took the photographs during the 1960s.

One of his most charismatic subjects was singer Little Richard, who Jim saw around 15 times, taking this picture when the star performed at West Bromwich Town Hall around 1965.

Jim said: "He was the prettiest man in rock and roll. He was a glutton for having his photo taken."

"I think I took about 30 or 40 shots of him on that occasion. He



Roy Orbison pictured during a concert in Birmingham

was very talkative and interested in others.

"On stage he was a whirlwind and came to life, he was very hard to get off stage."

The Rolling Stones also feature extensively in his collection.

A shot of the band performing was taken when the group were in Birmingham in 1965 to film Thank Your Lucky Stars on ATV, which later became Central Television.



Jerry Lee Lewis on song at West Bromwich Town Hall

An unposed picture captures a relaxed Mick Jagger.

"In those days television was a very boring procedure, you would have to sit around for a couple of hours," he said.

"The Stones would always go on last so they had a lot of down time and that picture was taken in part of that down time."

For more information on the exhibition visit www.home-ofmetal.com



It's all smiles from Freddie and the Dreamers when they played in Lye



A youthful Rod Stewart performing during the 60s in Birmingham

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AMY WINEHOUSE TRIBUTE

BBC2, 10.35pm

Over the last years of her life, Amy Winehouse featured far more in the papers for her troubled personal life than her music. However, this was still shocked when it was announced that she'd been found dead. Many were also surprised to realise that she was just 27, probably because Amy's career got off to a very early start. This programme sees Jools Holland introducing a selection of her performances, but if you need a further reminder of just what a distinctive voice we've lost, BBC Sessions: Amy Winehouse, which follows at 11.15pm, sees the singer performing some of her best-known tracks.

09.00 Breakfast 9.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bits 10.00 The Good Cook (R) 10.30 BBC News Regional News/Weather 11.00 Football Focus 11.30 British Olympic Dream 12.00 Live At The Apollo: The London Grand Prix 12.30 Final Score 1.00 BBC News Regional News/Weather 1.30 Total Wipeout (R)

09.00 Today's Top Light Melanie C takes to the stage with a Spice Girls fan, Lee Micallef star Allie Boe duets with a delectable dad and Andy Murray serves up a surprise for a leave-out.

10.00 The Hundred Lottery: Is It A Yip In Fate? Winton presents the quiz show in which five contestants answer questions to scoop a big prize. Included the Lotto, Lotto Plus 5 and Thunderball draw with Mylene Fiacco.

10.30 Comedy A bomb explodes at Holly Airport. Starring Graham Gurnell and Nadine Harque.

11.00 John Bishop's Britain The Liverpoolian comic talks about British cuisine, featuring stand-up, sketches and real-life stories.

11.30 BBC News/Weather National Lottery Update.

11.40 FIVE: Cow Air (1987) Action thriller, starring Nicolas Cage.

11.50 The Football League Show New series. Including highlights of Derby County v Birmingham City. With analysis from Steve Clark and Weather View.

12.00 BBC News

09.00 CBeebies 9.00 CBBC 10.00 Ten Tiny Things: Come to Cordula (1989) Military adventure, starring Gary Cooper and Rita Hayworth. 10.30 Live International Rugby: Union Scotland v Ireland (Kick-off 2.15pm). 10.45 Live Challenge Cup Rugby: League Wigan Warriors v St Helens (Kick-off 4.30pm).

09.30 Play N1 The team meets people in St Austell, Cornwall, eager to make a profit selling their 'uniques' and artist Graham Overden talks about his work. (R)

10.00 Dingo Army Nottingham on God's power and communications services are out of it, but Captain Mainwaring rises to the occasion by declaring martial law. (R)

10.30 The Supremacy - Punking out Revolution The movement's final years. Last in the series.

11.00 BBC News 2011 Gustavo Dudamel conducts the Simon Bolivar Symphony Orchestra in Mahler's Symphony No. 2, the Resurrection. Presented by Katie Derham.

11.30 The World on 5 A collection of performances by the late singer.

11.40 BBC Sessions: Amy Winehouse A showcase of tracks from the late singer's album Back to Black and Frank. (R)

12.00 The Rob Brydon Show (R) 12.30 Flint Scam 3 (1980) Soft thriller. 1.00 Flint: Battle Beyond the Stars (1980) Soft adventure, with Richard Thomas. 1.30 Close.

09.00 CITV: Mini CITV 10.00 CITV 10.30 Ten Tiny Menu (R) 10.45 Coronation Street 10.50 The Morning Show 11.00 ITV News/Weather 11.30 Mark (R) 11.45 Flint: Agatha Christie: The Man in the Brown Suit (1988) Mystery, starring Stephanie Zimbalist. 12.00 Flint: Dr No (1962) James Bond travels to the Caribbean to investigate the murder of a fellow agent, looking to... a confrontation with a mysterious criminal mastermind holding a plot to sabotage the US space programme. The first in the long-running spy thriller series, starring Sean Connery, Udo Kier, and Joseph Wiseman. 12.30 Regional Programmes. 12.45 ITV News/Weather.

09.00 FIVE: Henry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (2005) The teenage wizard chooses to represent Hogwarts School in a dangerous magical tournament. Fourth instalment of the fantasy saga, starring Daniel Radcliffe.

10.00 Comedy: Britain's Funniest Two Part one of two. The entertainer explores the work of some of Britain's best-known comedians, beginning with Miranda Hart and Matt Lucas, and looks back on his own 60-year career.

10.30 ITV News/Weather 10.45 FIVE: Henry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (1989) Spy adventure, with Pierce Brosnan, Sean Bean and Frankie Jannet.

11.00 The Zone ITV News Headlines 11.30 Plain Sight 12.00 ITV Nightroom 12.30 ITV Morning News.

09.00 The Hobbit (R) 09.30 The Hobbit (R) 10.00 FIVE: Superhero World Championship 10.30 British Formula 1 International Series. 11.00 The Morning Line 11.30 T4: Friends (R) 12.00 T4: Hollywood Music Show 12.30 T4: Nashville (R) 1.00 T4: Friends (R) 1.30 T4: Pop Up Pop Quiz 1.45 T4: The Big Bang Theory (R) 2.00 The Big Bang Theory (R) 2.30 Channel 4 Flocking 2.45 Come Dine with Me Extra Portion. (R) 3.00 Come Dine with Me Extra Portion. (R) 3.30 Come Dine with Me Extra Portion. (R) 3.45 Channel 4 News.

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09.00 Mikkelthol 09.00 Inside Hollywood 09.30 Mexican Food Made Simple (R) 10.00 Police Interceptors (R) 10.30 Pinocchio: Hudson River Landing (R) 10.45 Flint: RoboCop: The Future of Law Enforcement (1984) Sci-fi thriller, starring Richard Eden. 11.00 Flint: The Last Starfighter (1984) Sci-fi adventure, starring Lance Guest. 11.30 Flint: Labyrinth (1986) Musical adventure, starring Robert Taylor.

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ITV2 1.00 Flint: Free Willy (1988) 2.00 American Idol Talent 5.00 Flint: (Kingsmen) Cop (1989) 6.00 Flint: The Minority Report (2001) Fantasy adventure, starring Brad Pitt. 11.00 Flint: The Island (2005)

ITV3 2.00 Flint: Carry On Jack (1988) 4.00 Flint: Minder, She Who: A Story to Die For (2000) 5.50 Agatha Christie's Sparkling Gem 7.55 Agatha Christie's Poirot 8.00 Agatha Christie's Marple: The corpse of a mysterious woman is found. 11.05 Celebrity Take

ITV4 8.05 Flint: The Young Man of the Law (1982) 9.00 Live Pre-Season Football: Tottenham Hotspur v Aston Villa (Kick-off 5.15pm). 10.00 Flint: The Big Bang Theory (R) 11.00 Flint: Rocky (1976) Oscar-winning boxing drama, starring Sylvester Stallone. 11.15 Flint: Born to Race Hell (2010)

BBC THREE 2.00 International Rugby Union 5.00 Top Gear 6.00 Great TV: Michael 11.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Moves 11.30 Family Guy 11.55 Flint: Rival (2008)

BBC FOUR 2.00 The Blue Planet 3.00 If We Could Talk: The History of the Home 4.00 Wallander 10.00 The Great Outdoors 11.00 Huckle: A Gentle But Seasoned

ITV 2.15 Flint: The 5.00 Flint: The 6.00 Flint: The 7.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.55 How I Met Your Mother 8.00 Flint: The 9.00 Flint: The 10.00 Flint: The 11.00 Flint: The 12.00 Flint: The 13.00 Flint: The 14.00 Flint: The 15.00 Flint: The 16.00 Flint: The 17.00 Flint: The 18.00 Flint: The 19.00 Flint: The 20.00 Flint: The 21.00 Flint: The 22.00 Flint: The 23.00 Flint: The 24.00 Flint: The 25.00 Flint: The 26.00 Flint: The 27.00 Flint: The 28.00 Flint: The 29.00 Flint: The 30.00 Flint: The 31.00 Flint: The 32.00 Flint: The 33.00 Flint: The 34.00 Flint: The 35.00 Flint: The 36.00 Flint: The 37.00 Flint: The 38.00 Flint: The 39.00 Flint: The 40.00 Flint: The 41.00 Flint: The 42.00 Flint: The 43.00 Flint: The 44.00 Flint: The 45.00 Flint: The 46.00 Flint: The 47.00 Flint: The 48.00 Flint: The 49.00 Flint: The 50.00 Flint: The 51.00 Flint: The 52.00 Flint: The 53.00 Flint: The 54.00 Flint: The 55.00 Flint: The 56.00 Flint: The 57.00 Flint: The 58.00 Flint: The 59.00 Flint: The 60.00 Flint: The 61.00 Flint: The 62.00 Flint: The 63.00 Flint: The 64.00 Flint: The 65.00 Flint: The 66.00 Flint: The 67.00 Flint: The 68.00 Flint: The 69.00 Flint: The 70.00 Flint: The 71.00 Flint: The 72.00 Flint: The 73.00 Flint: The 74.00 Flint: The 75.00 Flint: The 76.00 Flint: The 77.00 Flint: The 78.00 Flint: The 79.00 Flint: The 80.00 Flint: The 81.00 Flint: The 82.00 Flint: The 83.00 Flint: The 84.00 Flint: The 85.00 Flint: The 86.00 Flint: The 87.00 Flint: The 88.00 Flint: The 89.00 Flint: The 90.00 Flint: The 91.00 Flint: The 92.00 Flint: The 93.00 Flint: The 94.00 Flint: The 95.00 Flint: The 96.00 Flint: The 97.00 Flint: The 98.00 Flint: The 99.00 Flint: The 100.00 Flint: The 101.00 Flint: The 102.00 Flint: The 103.00 Flint: The 104.00 Flint: The 105.00 Flint: The 106.00 Flint: The 107.00 Flint: The 108.00 Flint: The 109.00 Flint: The 110.00 Flint: The 111.00 Flint: The 112.00 Flint: The 113.00 Flint: The 114.00 Flint: The 115.00 Flint: The 116.00 Flint: The 117.00 Flint: The 118.00 Flint: The 119.00 Flint: The 120.00 Flint: The 121.00 Flint: The 122.00 Flint: The 123.00 Flint: The 124.00 Flint: The 125.00 Flint: The 126.00 Flint: The 127.00 Flint: The 128.00 Flint: The 129.00 Flint: The 130.00 Flint: The 131.00 Flint: The 132.00 Flint: The 133.00 Flint: The 134.00 Flint: The 135.00 Flint: The 136.00 Flint: The 137.00 Flint: The 138.00 Flint: The 139.00 Flint: The 140.00 Flint: The 141.00 Flint: The 142.00 Flint: The 143.00 Flint: The 144.00 Flint: The 145.00 Flint: The 146.00 Flint: The 147.00 Flint: The 148.00 Flint: The 149.00 Flint: The 150.00 Flint: The 151.00 Flint: The 152.00 Flint: The 153.00 Flint: The 154.00 Flint: The 155.00 Flint: The 156.00 Flint: The 157.00 Flint: The 158.00 Flint: The 159.00 Flint: The 160.00 Flint: The 161.00 Flint: The 162.00 Flint: The 163.00 Flint: The 164.00 Flint: The 165.00 Flint: The 166.00 Flint: The 167.00 Flint: The 168.00 Flint: The 169.00 Flint: The 170.00 Flint: The 171.00 Flint: The 172.00 Flint: The 173.00 Flint: The 174.00 Flint: The 175.00 Flint: The 176.00 Flint: The 177.00 Flint: The 178.00 Flint: The 179.00 Flint: The 180.00 Flint: The 181.00 Flint: The 182.00 Flint: The 183.00 Flint: The 184.00 Flint: The 185.00 Flint: The 186.00 Flint: The 187.00 Flint: The 188.00 Flint: The 189

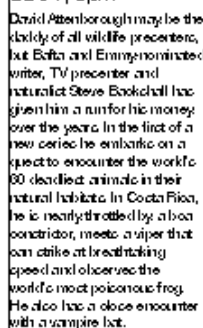


"Without a doubt, the best and easiest to use TV guide on Apple's mobile... The interface is superb." **T3 App Chart**



Jeep, the Jeep has nothing to do with the name of the car, which is a common misconception.

Digital



12.10 The Sky at Night: Weatherview. **12.12** Sign Zone: Edward Hannon's Journey to the Centre of the Planet. (R) **1.12** Holly: City. (R) **2.12** The Good Cook. (R) **2.12** Antique Road.

199 Film: *Emile*. (2003) Drama
 199 Film: *Emile*. (2003) Drama

22.12 *The Zone*; ITV News Headlines. **23.12** *Motorport UK*. **23.12** *ITV Nightscreen*. **23.12** *ITV*

2.50 **Stand Up for the Week:** (F)
 1.00 **Head Over Heels in Paris:** (F)
 2.00 **Film:** *The Rules of Attraction*
 (2002) Black comedy starring
 James Van Der Beek. 2.00 **Home**
Flick Movie: (F) 2.45 **Brothers &**
Sisters: (F) 2.00 **Hill Street Blues**
 (2002) (F) 2.00 **TV:** 2.00

99¢ SuperCade. 9.99 Animal
 Rescue Squad. (F) 9.99 Great
 Artists. (F) 9.99 Divine Design.
 (F) 12.99 Handic Helpers. (F) 12.99
 The Minkedkel Show. (F) 12.99
 Thomas & Friends. (F) 12.99

FILE#
3.00 The Nutty Professor (1983) 5.05 One Fine Day (1986) 7.15 Zoomlinter (2001) 8.55 Simon Pegg on How to Lose Friends & Alienate People (2003) 11.10

A promotional advertisement for Hillarys featuring a large, bold, black 'X' graphic on a white background. The text 'BIGGEST SUMMER BLINDS SALE EVER' is written in large, bold, black capital letters across the top. Below this, in smaller black text, it says 'Verticals, Rollers, Romans & more', 'Free measuring & fitting by your local advisor', and 'Call now for a free appointment'. A large, bold black number '0800 916 6511' is prominently displayed. Below the number is the website 'www.hillarys.co.uk'. At the bottom left, it says 'Terms & conditions apply'. On the right side, there is a circular badge with a black border containing the text '50% OFF' in large, bold, black letters, with 'SELECTED MADE-TO-MEASURE BLINDS' in smaller black text below it. The Hillarys logo, consisting of a stylized 'H' made of horizontal bars, is positioned to the left of the word 'Hillarys' in a serif font.

Torquay

Cavendish Hotel

- 3/4 nights DINNER, bed and breakfast
- Indoor & outdoor heated pool
- Entertainment, lift, car park
- By coach prices include 2 FREE excursions
- Child discount available

400 yards from the beach!

BY COACH

From your local West Midlands pick-up point

TAKE YOUR OWN CAR

★ **3 NIGHTS**

HALF BOARD

FRI 12, 19, 26 AUG

£129.95

£95

★ **4 NIGHTS**

HALF BOARD

MON 15, 22, 29 AUG

MON 5 SEP

£169.95

£125

★ **7 NIGHTS**

HALF BOARD

FRI 12, 19, 26 AUG

£279.95


£209.95

BOOK NOW!

01246 224411

www.travelstyletours.co.uk

A black and white advertisement for 'classified'. The main part of the ad is a large black rectangle. Inside this rectangle, the text 'LATE NIGHT SHOPPING' is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters. Below this, 'EVERY EVENING' is written in large, yellow, sans-serif capital letters. Underneath the yellow text, there are two paragraphs of white text. The first paragraph says: 'Bag a bargain every evening from the comfort of your own home, or sitting on the bus, or waiting for the train...'. The second paragraph says: 'With thousands of new items for sale, locally everyday, you might get hooked.' Below the black rectangle, the word 'classified' is written in a stylized font, with 'my' in a small circle inside the 'c'. Below 'classified' is the tagline 'There's nothing like it for buying and selling.' in a smaller, italicized font. To the right of the black rectangle is a vertical strip showing a lit candle in a glass holder, with the flame visible.



01902 317878
Express & Star | The Chronicle | www.expressandstar.com

Fridav

BBC1	6.00 Breakfast; 6.15 Hot Air Balloons; 8.00 Home Under the Hammer; BBC Weather; 11.00 What's on Ready?; 11.30 Catching Up; ABC BBC News; 1.15 Sunday Sports Centre; 1.30 The Big Breakfast; 2.00 Doctor; 2.15 Escape to the Country; 2.30 Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers; 3.05 Gosh!; 3.15 The Big Breakfast; 3.30 The Big Breakfast; 4.00 BBC News; 4.30 BBC News; 4.55 Regional News; 5.00 BBC News; 5.15 Regional News; 5.30 The One Show; 7.00 The Good Cook; BBC News; Regional News; 7.30 Good Afternoon; 8.00 A Question of Sport; 8.30 The Football Book; 9.00 The Big Breakfast; 9.30 John Bishop's Britain; 10.00 My Favourite Joke; 10.35 The National Lottery; 11.00 The Big Breakfast; 11.30 Sign Zone; Rick Stein's Spain; 12.35 Redactor; 1.00 Home; 2.05 Royal Variety Downstairs; 2.55 News
BBC2	6.00 Cbeebies; 7.00 CBeeB; 8.30

[The Food Lark](#) (1993) [1:15](#) [Diagnosis Murder](#) (2000) [1:15](#)
[Painted Under](#) (2000) [Weekend Update](#) (2000) [1:15](#)
[Ankage Road Trip](#) (2000) [1:15](#) [Flag in 5:15](#) [The Hair](#)
[Shed](#) [Food Truck of Britain](#) (2000) [Eggheads](#) (2000)
[Celebrity Eggheads](#) (2000) [South Africa](#) (2000)
[The Secret Family and Gene](#) (2000) [The Secret](#) (2000)
[0:00](#) [Chilean Miners](#) (2000) [10:30](#) [Busted](#) [Africa](#) (2000)
[The Rob Brydon Show](#) (2000) [10:30](#) [Newlight](#) (2000)
[The Review Show at the Edinburgh Festival](#) (2000)
[Rint of Time and the City](#) (2008) [1:15](#) [Rint](#) (2000)
[Worry/About Me](#) (2008) [2:30](#) [Close](#)

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4PAC: One Dime Party 2, 3, 6, **Murphy** First Second, 2, 15PAC: **DJ Stylow** & **MC Strugglez** 2, 15PAC: **2 Sisters**, 9.55Hill Street Blues, 9.55Cockney School.

Channel 5 6.00 **Michael** 6.15 **The Wright Stuff** 6.30 **15PAC: The Wright Stuff Extra** with **Osoby Long** 6.30 **500 Music Lineups** 6.55 **10s Road Thickers** 7.00 **Meerkat Manor**, 7.15 **Hollyboards** 7.15 **50C: Miami** 7.30 **15PAC: The Flamingo** 7.45 (2008) **500: 5 New** 7.55 **50C: Miami** 8.00 **50C: Miami** 8.15 **50C: Miami** 8.30 **50C: Miami** 8.45 **50C: Miami** 8.55 **50C: Miami** 9.00 **50C: Miami** 9.15 **50C: Miami** 9.30 **50C: Miami** 9.45 **50C: Miami** 9.55 **50C: Miami** 10.00 **50C: Miami** 10.15 **50C: Miami** 10.30 **50C: Miami** 10.45 **50C: Miami** 10.55 **50C: Miami** 11.00 **50C: Miami** 11.15 **50C: Miami** 11.30 **50C: Miami** 11.45 **50C: Miami** 11.55 **50C: Miami** 12.00 **50C: Miami** 12.15 **50C: Miami** 12.30 **50C: Miami** 12.45 **50C: Miami** 12.55 **50C: Miami** 1.00 **50C: Miami** 1.15 **50C: Miami** 1.30 **50C: Miami** 1.45 **50C: Miami** 1.55 **50C: Miami** 2.00 **50C: Miami** 2.15 **50C: Miami** 2.30 **50C: Miami** 2.45 **50C: 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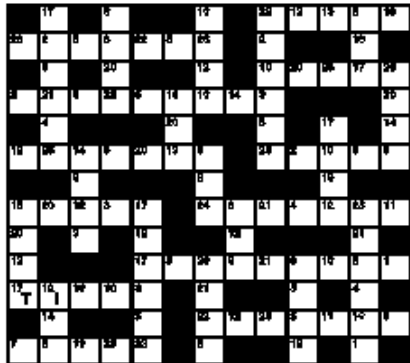
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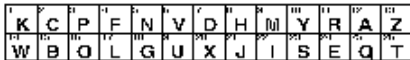
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Working boy - the bookkeeper will need plenty! (4)
- When he's in action, the running commentary won't last long! (8)
- 22ac: This will give the pupil a mis-guided view (7,8)
- A song with grave associations (5)
- State transport that is not often stopped (7,5)
- Reactionally bigger than the usual quarters! (6)
- Sort of leave to shore disease (8)
- Obscure when young people are called names (1,2)
- To express respect after one is angry (5)
- Going at full speed and breaking in pieces (7)
- See 5 Across
- Material taken from the Bitch Tower (4)

Down

- Estate may be part of the scenery (8)
- Don't keep on lying (5,2)
- Eastern European refinement (5)
- No straightforward quality (1,2)
- The dog to go astray in a row (7)
- What the fisherman uses sounds genuine (4)
- Turn golf clubs into tools (5,7)
- People depend on this for their good looks (8)
- An Old Testament character, but he is confused with Islam (7)
- You may find a working model in this room (8)
- The sound from the piano is controlling (5)
- As a headline, I'm making a double come back (4)

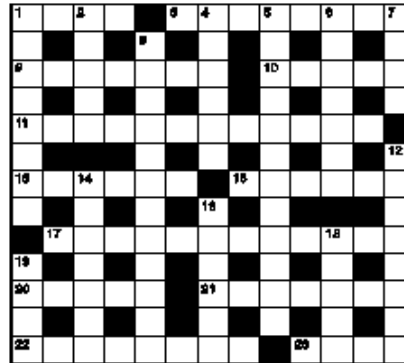
Quick Clues:

Across

- Rustic (4)
- Advice against doing (8)
- Sid plums (7)
- Ud (4)
- Antics (1,2)
- Alphabetical (8)
- Straw (5)
- Hospital notice (7,5)
- Attire (5)
- Curl (7)
- Adorn (3,5)
- Pole

Down

- Disgust (8)
- Singin (5)
- Raid (6)
- Without superior (5,2,4)
- Contamy (7)
- Mort (4)
- Foot experts (1,2)
- Declared (8)
- Go back (7)
- Trapped (8)
- Governor (5)
- Poems (4)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

CRYPTIC - Across: 10. Scenery, 11. Scenery, 12. Scenery, 13. Scenery, 14. Scenery, 15. Scenery, 16. Scenery, 17. Scenery, 18. Scenery, 19. Scenery, 20. Scenery, 21. Scenery, 22. Scenery, 23. Scenery, 24. Scenery, 25. Scenery, 26. Scenery, 27. Scenery, 28. Scenery, 29. Scenery, 30. Scenery, 31. Scenery, 32. Scenery, 33. Scenery, 34. Scenery, 35. Scenery, 36. Scenery, 37. Scenery, 38. Scenery, 39. Scenery, 40. Scenery, 41. Scenery, 42. Scenery, 43. Scenery, 44. Scenery, 45. Scenery, 46. Scenery, 47. Scenery, 48. Scenery, 49. Scenery, 50. Scenery, 51. Scenery, 52. Scenery, 53. Scenery, 54. Scenery, 55. Scenery, 56. Scenery, 57. Scenery, 58. Scenery, 59. Scenery, 60. Scenery, 61. Scenery, 62. Scenery, 63. Scenery, 64. Scenery, 65. Scenery, 66. Scenery, 67. Scenery, 68. Scenery, 69. Scenery, 70. Scenery, 71. Scenery, 72. Scenery, 73. Scenery, 74. Scenery, 75. Scenery, 76. Scenery, 77. Scenery, 78. Scenery, 79. Scenery, 80. Scenery, 81. Scenery, 82. Scenery, 83. Scenery, 84. Scenery, 85. 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Paddy Power Gold Cup

Buy one place get one free

Two days departing November 12



PRICE FROM **£175**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Entrance to the Best Mate Enclosure
- A visit to Bath
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Victoria Falls, Botswana Safari and Cape Town

11 days. Various departure dates



PRICE FROM **£2,099**

- Return flights and internal flights
- Five nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Two lunches
- Walking tour of Victoria Falls
- Sunset Zambezi river cruise
- Game drive and boat safari in Chobe
- Full-day guided tours to Cape Point and the Winelands
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

German Markets Cruise

Four days departing December 7



PRICE FROM **£269**

- Return coach travel and ferry crossings from selected pick-up points
- Three nights full board accommodation
- On board entertainment program
- Ports of call include Andernach, Oberwesel, Koblenz and Cologne
- Services of a Cruise Manager
- Single cabins subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Strawberry Fields and Penny Lane

Two days departing October 8



PRICE FROM **£89.⁹⁵**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Two visits to Liverpool
- Fully guided Beatles Coach Tour of Liverpool
- A journey on the legendary "Ferry 'Cross the Mersey'"
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Manchester Ship Canal Cruise

Two days departing September 17



PRICE FROM **£125**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Cruise on the Manchester Ship Canal
- Visit to Chester
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Jersey

Four to eight days
Various departure dates



PRICE FROM **£245**

- Return flights
- Bed and breakfast accommodation
- Check-in and airline booking fees
- Half-board option
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Modern Travel Centre (ABTA V3101, ATOL 0752)

Rome and Sorrento

Eight days
Various departure dates



PRICE FROM **£669**

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation
- Full day excursion to Rome with guided sightseeing
- Visit to Montecassino Abbey
- Visit to Pompeii
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Mistral Holidays (ABTA V0669, ATOL 6900)

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Please read brochures/web pages for full description plus terms and conditions. Dates subject to availability.

Rainforest Life at ZSL London Zoo



Pick of the week



PRICE FROM **£105***

WITH the summer holidays well under way, you've probably already planned what to do, what to see and where to go to keep the young ones entertained, but if you're thinking further ahead to the half term break then this trip is ideal.

Experience for yourself the sights, sounds and smells of a real tropical paradise at the exciting 'Rainforest Life', exhibit at London Zoo.

A tropical rainforest is the product of equatorial temperatures and rainfall, you would therefore hardly expect to encounter such an environment thriving within the centre of England's capital city!

Thanks to the efforts of Zoological Society London (ZSL), who strive to both enlighten and educate the visiting public, you will be able to come face to face with a variety of amazing species including the Titi monkey, Sun Bitten, Sloth, Emperor Tamarin and the endangered Golden Lion Tamarin.

Leaving the living rainforest behind you can continue your journey by taking a stroll through the 'Meet the Monkeys Walkthrough', Gorilla Kingdom', 'Giants of the Galapagos' that features the largest tortoises in the world which can live for over 150 years, 'Asian Big Cats' and children's zoo 'Animal Adventure'.

Price includes: return coach travel, overnight half-board accommodation, entrance to ZSL London Zoo, a flight on the London Eye, and the services of a tour driver.

INFO

Price from: **£105***
Accommodation: **Half board**
Departure date: **October 22**
Duration: **Two days**
* £79.95 under 16s sharing with an adult

Single supplements apply

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Beamish, Whitby and the North Yorks Moor Railway

Four days departing October 7



PRICE FROM **£229**

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to the Beamish - The Living Museum of the North
- A ride on the North Yorks Moor Railway
- Visits to Whitby, Harrogate and Richmond
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

The Azores and Madeira Cruise

16 days departing August 11, 2012



PRICE FROM **£1,143**

- 15 nights full-board accommodation including afternoon tea and late-night snacks
- First-class daytime and evening entertainment
- Ports of call include Lisbon, Horta, Praia, Ponta Delgada and Funchal
- A wide range of on-board amenities
- Single cabins subject to availability - supplement applies
- Parking at Tilbury and coach transfers to the ship offered for a supplement

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Thursford Christmas Spectacular

Two days departing November 27



PRICE FROM **£139.⁹⁵**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Admission to the Thursford Christmas Spectacular
- Free time in Norwich
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

Venice city break

Three days
Various departure dates



PRICE FROM **£229**

- Return flights
- Two nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Extra nights available
- Choice of hotels
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Mistral Holidays (ABTA V0669, ATOL 6900)



Lettings **hickshadley.com** 0121 585 6688

OPEN SUNDAYS! FRIENDLY SERVICE YOU CAN TRUST!



CRADLEY HEATH, THE CRESCENT

A unique opportunity to rent this beautiful detached property in Halesowen, briefly comprising of: Four Good Sized Bedrooms, Fabulous Fitted Kitchen with Fridge/Freezer, Spacious Lounge and Separate Dining Room, Downstairs WC, Family Bathroom with Shower, Master Bedroom with En-Suite, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Driveway Parking for 5 Cars, and Garage.

£995 PCM



HALESOWEN, SUMMERFIELDS AVENUE

Ideally located in Hurst Green, close to popular school, motorway access and commutable to Birmingham, is this lovely semi-detached home, briefly comprising of: Three Large Bedrooms, Two Spacious Reception Rooms, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom with Shower, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking and Garage.

£695 PCM



HALESOWEN, HUNTLANDS ROAD

Located on the Huntlands Estate, is this three story terraced property, close to Halesowen town centre, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Double Glazing, Warm Air Heating, Family Bathroom, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking.

£695 PCM



OLDBURY, SUFFOLK ROAD

A part furnished to suit detached property in popular residential area, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge and Dining Room, Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking and Garage.

£650 PCM



HALESOWEN, WROXLEY HOUSE, UFFMOOR LANE

Luxury Living In Hayley Green A superb, brand new luxury apartment on the first floor. Offering spacious accommodation including, Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen and Dining with French Doors to Balcony, Two Double Bedrooms, Master with En-Suite, Further Well Appointed Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing and Allocated Parking.

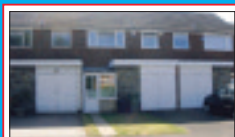
£625 PCM



HAGLEY, MILL POOL CLOSE

Located in a peaceful location with lovely views is this unfurnished luxury ground floor apartment, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Through Lounge/Dining Room with Views Across Open Countryside, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower & Separate WC, Communal Gardens, Parking Space and Garage.

£595 PCM



BLACKHEATH, HOLT ROAD

An immaculately presented mid terraced home, close to local shops, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen with White Goods, Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway and Garage, Unfurnished.

£595 PCM



STOURBRIDGE, THE PUMPHOUSE

This luxury modern furnished first floor apartment briefly comprises of: One Double Bedroom, Stunning Open Plan Lounge, High Spec Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Storage Heating, Double Glazing and Allocated Parking.

£575 PCM



HALESOWEN, CHURCHILL ROAD

An opportunity to rent this unfurnished ground floor apartment, in a Cul-De-Sac Location, on the Huntlands Estate, comprising of: Two Double Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Shower Room, Garage En Bloc, Allocated Parking, Own Garden.

£525 PCM



HALESOWEN, PARK ROAD

This modern mid terraced house, on a bus route to Halesowen and Stourbridge, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Lounge, House Bathroom, Master Bedroom with En-Suite, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden, Allocated Parking, Unfurnished.

£525 PCM



EDGBASTON, SHOOTERS CLOSE

Set in a quiet cul-de-sac, a stones throw away from Calthorpe Park, is this Semi-detached home, comprising of: Two Double Bedrooms, Large Lounge, Large Kitchen, Family Bathroom, Brand New Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Driveway Parking, Front and Rear Gardens.

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CRADLEY HEATH, SUTHERLAND ROAD

An unfurnished semi detached house, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted Dining Kitchen with White Goods, Downstairs WC, Three Bedrooms, House Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Driveway Parking.

£495 PCM



HALESOWEN, EDWARD ROAD

This unfurnished end terraced house close to local shops, and buses, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Downstairs WC, Bathroom with Shower, Driveway Parking, Rear Garden.

£495 PCM



NETHERTON, ROUND STREET

This large, split level flat above shops, within walking distance to bus links and close to J2 of the M5, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden and Driveway Parking for 2 Cars, Unfurnished.

£475 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, PEAR TREE LANE

This modern first floor apartment situated on a popular development, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Spacious Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Parking Space, Unfurnished.

£475 PCM



UPPER GORNAL, TUDOR VALE

Located in this ever popular cul-de-sac is this end terrace house, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Spacious Living Room, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, Driveway Parking, Unfurnished.

£475 PCM



OLDBURY, CAUSEWAY GREEN ROAD

This large, split level flat above shops, within walking distance to bus links and close to J2 of the M5, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Spacious Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Parking to Rear, Unfurnished.

£425 PCM



HALESOWEN, APPERLEY WAY

An opportunity to acquire a spacious first floor apartment on the ever popular Homer Hill estate, briefly comprising of: Two Double Bedrooms, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Unfurnished.

£400 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, VICTORIA GARDENS

A modern top floor apartment, in the centre of Old Hill, with local bus stop outside, and Old Hill train station close by, briefly comprising of: One Double Bedroom, Electric Storage Heating, Double Glazing, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Allocated Parking, Unfurnished.

£395 PCM



HALESOWEN, NETHEREND LANE

On this popular development, is this unfurnished ground floor flat, briefly comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Garden, Garage.

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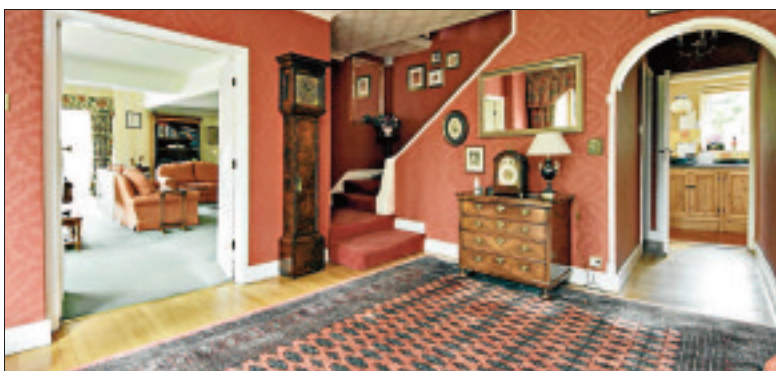
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Rickerby House in Hampton Grove has four reception rooms, five bedrooms and two en suites



The charming drawing room measures 23ft 8in x 17ft, has a Minister style fireplace



The spacious reception hall measures 13ft 3in x 12ft 4in and leads to further groundfloor rooms

Kinver home on the market for £645,000

A CHARMING traditional detached residence has come onto the market in the much sought-after and historic village of Kinver.

Rickerby House in Hampton Grove has four reception rooms, five bedrooms, two en suites, gardens and a four car garage, and is on the market through Andrew Grant for offers in the region of £645,000.

The spacious reception hall measures 13ft 3in x 12ft 4in and leads to a fitted cloakroom with a WC and wash basin.

In the front-facing sitting room, there's a panelled radiator, power

points and a feature fireplace with log effect gas fire while the charming drawing room measures 23ft 8in x 17ft, has a 'Minister' style fireplace, radiators, power points and double doors to the formal dining room. A further door leads into the breakfast room, which connects to the breakfast kitchen with a comprehensive range of drawer, wall and base units, integrated dishwasher and fridge and Belfast sink. In the adjoining utility, there's plumbing for a washing machine while a further door leads to a gardener's WC, store and outside to the rear garden.

Upstairs, there's a loft room off the landing, which has a sink unit and power points while a door leads to the 17ft 3in x 15ft master bedroom, which has a balcony with decking, an en suite with WC, twin vanity wash

basins and towel rail and a dressing room with a range of wardrobes.

The guest bedroom has built-in wardrobes and an en suite with a panelled bath and pedestal wash basin while the third and fifth bedrooms also have fitted wardrobes. There's a further bedroom and family bathroom, which has a panelled bath with a shower above, WC and pedestal wash basin.

Outside, the house is set back behind electric gates and a driveway providing off-road parking for several vehicles and leading to a four car garage with roller doors.

To the rear, the lovely garden is a particularly feature, consisting of a patio area, lawn and mature borders.

For more information or to arrange a viewing, contact 01384 370232.



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35ft x 12ft.
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2 bedrooms, sleeps 6.
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30ft Mooring on River Severn.
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Jessica, Ricky, Tye, Ossie and others are waiting for your call.
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Leaders keep on winning

It was another routine Saturday for Division One 1st XI's leaders Stourbridge as they completed a 118 runs win at Pedmore and are now 70 points clear, heading for a record points total and winning margin.

Nomads lost second place after failing to complete the dismissal of Worcester's tail and so Pershore and Astwood Bank, winners respectively over Droitwich and Oldswinford have moved ahead of them, writes Chris Marsh.

Astwood Bank's Steve Adshead once again proved his worth with 136 and then Tom Harris took six Oldswinford scalps. Dave White made 85 not out and Liam Ridings 76 for Pershore after Jake Young hit 91 for visitors Droitwich.

Redditch beat Romsley by a similar margin to move further clear of the two relegation places.

In Division Two, leaders Hagley were held by Burghill.

Division Five leading sides Bromsgrove, Old Hill, Ross-on-Wye and Clebury Mortimer all won against the four bottom sides.

2ND XI'S

Division one leaders Pedmore got back to winning ways at Stourbridge. Nomads beat Hagley.

In Division five Halesowen lost to Bromsgrove and their lead is now 12 points with four games left.

ONE TEAM SECTION

Division Seven saw defeats for the top pair so Harborne 5ths and Highley are still two points apart.

In Division Nine Hagley were held by Malvern and after Harborne's narrow win against Evesham, Hagley lead the division by just five points.

Step up for club as they share ground with Yeltz

A football club will be sharing grounds with a more established Black Country side following successful negotiations.

Blackheath Town FC will be playing its fixtures at The Grove, home of Halesowen Town FC, for the first time next season to further its chances of promotion to higher leagues.

Bosses from the squad said the move was a "step up" for the side which reformed just a few years ago and presently plays its games in the West Midlands Regional League.

The club previously played at the old Oldbury United ground, in York Road, Rowley Regis, staying on after that side folded.

Dudleychrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Pupils' Olympian contest



Pupils get ready to try blind sports and wheelchair basketball at their summer sports day

Wheelchair basketball, sit-down volleyball and blind races were among new games for youngsters at a Quarry Bank school sports day. Paralympic coaches Lee Lough and Mark Bennett from Kingswinford-based Effective Play were invited to Thorns Primary, Thorns Road, its sports day.

Children from reception up to year six were given the chance to try the adapted games and experience what it would be like to play sports with a disability, sports coordinator Ryan Lamb said: "The kids all had a fantastic time, we've had a good response from everyone," said school.

Headteacher David Priestley added: "With the Olympics coming up, and with Old Park Special School joining us, we wanted to give the children something new."

But Blackheath FC bosses said costs had proved prohibitive to remain at the ground and the Yeltz have offered a better deal.

The move will also give the club room to expand and pursue its hopes of advancement into higher leagues.

Club director Ian Smyth said: "We look forward to a long and happy relationship with the club, its owners and supporters."

"This is a step up for Blackheath. We are an ambitious club and at had advanced as far as we could at the previous ground."

Package

"This offers room for the club to advance. There were many reasons for the move and one was simply Halesowen FC offered a better financial package."

Mr Smyth said it was hoped there would be a crossover between supporters of Blackheath and Halesowen.

He added: "A new boss has recently taken over at the Grove and I am pleased the negotiations have been successful."

"This move will be good for both clubs and we are looking forward to staging our first game at the ground."

The club's first home fixture at the Grove, and the opening match of the new season, will be against Wellington Amateurs on August 6.

Admission will be £1 for adults and free for accompanied children under 16.

Reece puts in plenty of effort



Reece Williams celebrates his success

A budding young golfer from the Black Country beat off tough competition from across the UK to gain a top-10 score in a leading competition.

Reece Williams, aged 16, from Gerald Road, Wollaston, has been playing the sport since the age of seven and aims to turn professional in the future.

The youngster proved his competitive spirit after taking part in the Ian Poulter Invitational tournament in Milton Keynes.

The teenager pitted his skills against more than 100 of the top young junior players in the country to earn a net score of 76.

Forge

The score is the amount earned by players after handicap strokes have been deducted.

It was a top-10 score taking him to the top flight of the competition.

Reece, a former Ridge-wood High School pupil, plans to forge a career in the game and will attend a golf college in Gloucestershire from September.

He is a member of Churchill and Blakedown Golf Club and practices every day.

Reece said: "My all-round game was good and I was delighted with the net score."

"It was great to play against other juniors."

Hurray as Harry hits a hat-trick

Old Halesonians Hockey Club
STOURPORT 1
OLD HALESONIANS 4

Old Halesonians Hockey Summer League team continued their winning streak to five games, with a 4-1 victory at Stourport HC.

Old Hales travelled to Stourport on Thursday evening, and it was the home side that scored first when some lacklustre defending allowed an easy strike at goal, to give Stourport a 1-0 lead.

Hales did not stay on the back foot for long though, and were soon level again after Harry Hughes found the net.

The equaliser spurred the away side on, and they soon took the lead when Hughes grabbed his second of the game.

After the half-time break, Hales' defence was rarely troubled.

Serious

And it was Chris Whiley, who at the other end gave Old Halesonians a comfortable lead when he calmly put the ball past the young Stourport keeper.

The game was then brought to a halt for a considerable amount of time after a serious mouth injury to a Stourport defender.

The break in play did not affect Hales' momentum, and Hughes grabbed his hat-trick soon after to give them a 4-1 victory.

Captain Jim Gurmin said he was "extremely pleased with the performance against an experienced Stourport side".

Old Halesonians find themselves comfortably in the top half of the table with just one game remaining.

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STEP UP FOR FOOTBALL CLUB

REECE PUTS IN THE EFFORT

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Champions show off their trophy



Former world champion Michael Lee joined in the celebrations as Dudley Heathens paraded their National League Fours trophy at Monmore Green last night. Lee is pictured on the front row alongside captain Jon Armstrong. The winning line-up is completed by, back row, left to right, Adam Roynon, Richard Franklin, Ashley Morris and team manager Will Pottinger.

By Tim Hamblin

DUDLEY 38 MILDENHALL 51
THEY came to praise the new National League Fours champions and stayed to laud one of the brightest young talents on the speedway block in Cameron Heeps.

Dudley paraded their newly won silverware with pride only for a rampant Pen Tigers outfit to poop the party last night as home hero Ashley Morris crashed out of the action.

Morris was taken to hospital as a precaution after hitting his head in a first bend tumble.

Mildenhall were spearheaded by the precocious Heeps, the 15-year-old reserve outscoring his age by a comfortable margin.

In fact the Perth talent dropped just one point from his seven starts.

It came in heat 12 and was the race of the night. Heeps initially pulled clear of Tom Perry but lost momentum when lifting down the back straight and that was all the invitation the Dudley team needed.

Perry got himself half a wheel to the good as he flew round the corner, and cemented the advantage with a pits turn full of commitment. He stayed out in the dirt and had just

enough to beat off the young Aussie's challenge.

With Heeps stacking up the points at one end of the scorechart and Jack Hargreaves doing so at the other, Mildenhall always looked likely winners.

For Dudley it was one of those nights when several riders seemed marginally, but crucially, under par. Consequently they struggled for momentum, two of their three 5-1 advantages answered immediately by a maximum in the other direction.

Richard Franklin, down at reserve through Darryl Ritchings' recent surge in form rather than any major shortcomings of his own, battled away for paid 12 but he will be one of few home riders to look back on this one with pleasure – unlike Heeps.

Dudley: Tom Perry 11+1, Richard Franklin 10+2, Jon Armstrong 7, Adam Roynon 4+1, Ashley Morris 3, Darryl Ritchings 2+2, Adam Portwood 1.

Mildenhall: Cameron Heeps 20, Jack Hargreaves 13+3, Joe Jacobs 7+1, Aaron Baseby 6+1, Lewis Blackburn 5+1, Daniel Halsey 0.

Glassboys give Yeltz first beating of the preseason

HALESOWEN TOWN 0 STOURBRIDGE 2

Halesowen's suffered their first pre-season defeat as two second-half goals clinched victory for Stourbridge.

Yeltz goalkeeper Paul Evans was called into early action as he denied Sam Rock and then blocked Ryan Rowe.

Stourbridge, who are preparing to start a new season at a higher level than Halesowen for the first time in over 20 years, responded when Lee Chilton tested Stourbridge goalkeeper Lewis Solly in the 15th minute.

Solly then kept out Chilton's bobbling effort from 20 yards before Nathan Jackson then drove just wide of the Stourbridge upright in an even first half.

Before the break, Evans stretched to grab a free-kick from Sean Geddes and then did well to beat the ball away after Rowe evaded several challenges to skip through the heart of the home defence.

After the interval Stourbridge skipper Ben Billingham set up substitute Josh Craddock to screw a shot just wide and a further Billingham effort dipped over the bar.

Substitute David Plinton broke the deadlock on 69 minutes when he touched the ball home following a cross-shot from Craddock.

Former Walsall striker Sean Geddes then hit a 30-yard screamer into the top corner to double the Glassboys' lead.

Halesowen Town: Evans; Lescott, Caines (Robinson 72), Smith, Folkes (Alex Rooft 80), Connor (Mills 80), Westwood (Meakin-Richards 63), Saunders, Jackson (Curtis 80), Justin Nisbett (Hinds 63), Lee Chilton.

Stourbridge: Solly; Rock (Smith HT), Mahon (Dyson 62), McCone, Geddes, Bennett (Lloyd 65), Slater (Craddock HT), Broadhurst, Rowe, Billingham, Canavan (Plinton 62).

Att: 375. **Ref:** R. Crawford (Stoke-on-Trent).

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OLD HILL CRICKET CLUB Saturday July 30

BROMSGROVE (16 POINTS) 219 DREW WITH OLD HILL (8 POINTS) 163-8.

The 1st XI won the toss away at Bromsgrove and elected to field. They got off to a good start with some impressive bowling from Ed Denham (4-44) as the hosts were in trouble at 69-5 from 18 overs before a stubborn fifth wicket partnership of 99 between Newick (44) and Friend (73) took the total to 168 and they were parted with 12 overs remaining.

However, some indifferent bowling from the visitors helped the Bromsgrove tail to post a score of 219 all out off 51.3 overs, a total that looked way beyond the hosts at the outset. A Hussain bowled well for the visitors with a return of 17-6, 28-2. Old Hill's reply got off to a frantic start as the hosts opening bowler, Friend, was removed from the action by the umpire after just 3 balls and O'Connor injured in his fifth over, leaving Bromsgrove with no alternative but to turn to spin.

This turned out to be good for the hosts as the scoring rate dropped dramatically. Opener, Dan Cox (36) was out with the total on 63 and Nitesh Patel was out on the second ball without scoring.

Mike Hingley went on to score (44) and Dan Wood (24) but with the wicket taking more and more spin, the visitors batsmen found runs hard to come by and they ended up 36 runs short of their target as the additional overs ran out. Old Hill could only manage a losing draw finishing on 163-8 wickets. D'Oliveira took 6-38 for the hosts.

OLD HILL (7 POINTS) 240-4 LOST TO LEAMINGTON SPA (20 POINTS) 241-8 BY 2 WICKETS.

The 2nd XI played hosts to Leamington Spa at Haden Hill and having lost the toss were invited to bat first. The Old Hill openers, Jared Daniels (14) and Shazad Aslam started well with a partnership of 44 in just 8 overs.

Hamza Ahmed then joined Aslam and the scoring rate dropped dramatically due to some tight bowling and excellent fielding by the visitors. Eventually the second wicket century partnership was broken on 153 when Aslam was out for 76. Ahmed remained unbeaten on 82 as the hosts total reached 240-4 wickets off their 50 overs.

When the visitors replied they lost three early wickets before a stand of 92 between Hawkes (47) and Uddin (44) took the score to 157-4 wickets in the thirty third over. From then on it looked as though Old Hill were in the driving seat but a late rally left Leamington requiring 14 runs from the last over for victory with 8 wickets down.

However, two sizes off successive balls in the last over by Davidson eased the visitors to victory by 2 wickets with two balls remaining. Pick of the Old Hill bowlers were Captain Mo Javid 2-11 and Mitch Jeffery 2-29.

OLD HILL (24 POINTS) 146 BEAT STOURBRIDGE (4 POINTS) 81 BY 65 RUNS.

The 3rd XI maintained their challenge for the League title with a comprehensive victory over local rivals Stourbridge at Wassell Grove. Having won the toss, Captain Maurice Whyte decided to bat first but could only post a modest total of 146 off 37.3 overs with Winston Lewis (29) the top scorer.

The Stourbridge reply never really got started as the hosts bowlers were on top throughout the innings and they were bowled out for 81 in 25 overs. Lewis this time starred with the ball taking 6-49 closely followed by Richard Lloyd with 3-8 plus two catches and a special mention for Joel Foster who came up with a match winning catch as Old Hill completed their victory.

STOURBRIDGE (24 POINTS) 194-8 BEAT OLD HILL (3 POINTS) 124 BY 70 RUNS.

The 4th XI lost the toss away at Stourbridge as the very experienced hosts side chose to bat first in the sunshine and totalled 194-8 wickets in their 46 overs aided by a massive 47 extras. The visitors were forced to change their wicket-keeper at 20 overs but stand in Todd Hickman gave an excellent performance behind the stumps conceding just 1 extra in 25 overs.

In reply, the inexperienced Old Hill side could only manage 124 all out in 38 overs with Herbie Patel 55-30 the hosts best bowler while Izzy Khan top scored for the visitors on 46 as Stourbridge won by 70 runs.

Sunday 31 July 2011

PEDMORE (0 POINTS) 263-8 LOST TO OLD HILL (10 POINTS) 332-7 BY 69 RUNS.

The Sunday XI took first knock in their game away at Pedmore and soon had 100 runs on the board as openers Nigel Davenport (70) and centurion Joe Thorn (107) put together a stand of 110 for the first wicket. The momentum was then continued by rest of the visitors batsmen – Jared Daniels (38), Reece Shilcock (26), Captain Carl Whyte (34) and Jon Baig (25), as they posted a massive 332-7 wickets from their 40 overs. Pedmore made a spirited reply with Wassere (87), Riaz (57) and Cooper (53) being the main contributors to a total of 263-8 wickets off 40 overs. Dan Such was the best visitors bowler with 3-27 as Old Hill won by 69 runs.

Forthcoming Fixtures

Saturday 6 August: First XI at home to Walmley, noon start.

2nd XI away at Walmley, 12.30pm. start.

3rd XI away at Ross-on-Wye, 1.30pm. start.

4th XI at home to Ross-on-Wye, 1.30pm. start.

Sunday August 7

Sunday XI away at Springvale, 2.00pm start.

Derek Griffiths

Cricket tribute to sailor Paul



Playing in memory of sailor Paul McCann is Halesowen captain Wes Griffiths, left, with captain of the Royal Navy team Matt Thompson and Brian McCann, Paul's father

Friends and family of a Black Country sailor killed in an explosion while serving in the Navy gathered to remember him at a cricket match.

More than 300 spectators enjoyed the sunshine at the fourth annual Paul McCann Memorial between Halesowen Cricket Club and a team from the Royal Navy.

The match at the club in Grange Road was organised by friends and family of the 32-year-old from Halesowen who was killed following an explosion aboard submarine HMS Tireless in 2007.

Mr McCann, a former Earls High School pupil and club member, grew up playing for the club's youth teams.

Current captain Wes Griffiths said: "It's great so many people came out and had a good time. Paul was a great bloke and he loved cricket. It's really important people keep turning out to show their solidarity."

The home side were clear winners in the 40-over contest, reaching 294 for five, while the Navy team ended on 211 for seven. The cash raised is still being counted. It will go towards the Fund for Needy Children, a charity set up in Paul's memory.

Paul's father, Brian, said he was "overwhelmed" by the support.



Paul McCann, who died in 2007

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